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A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

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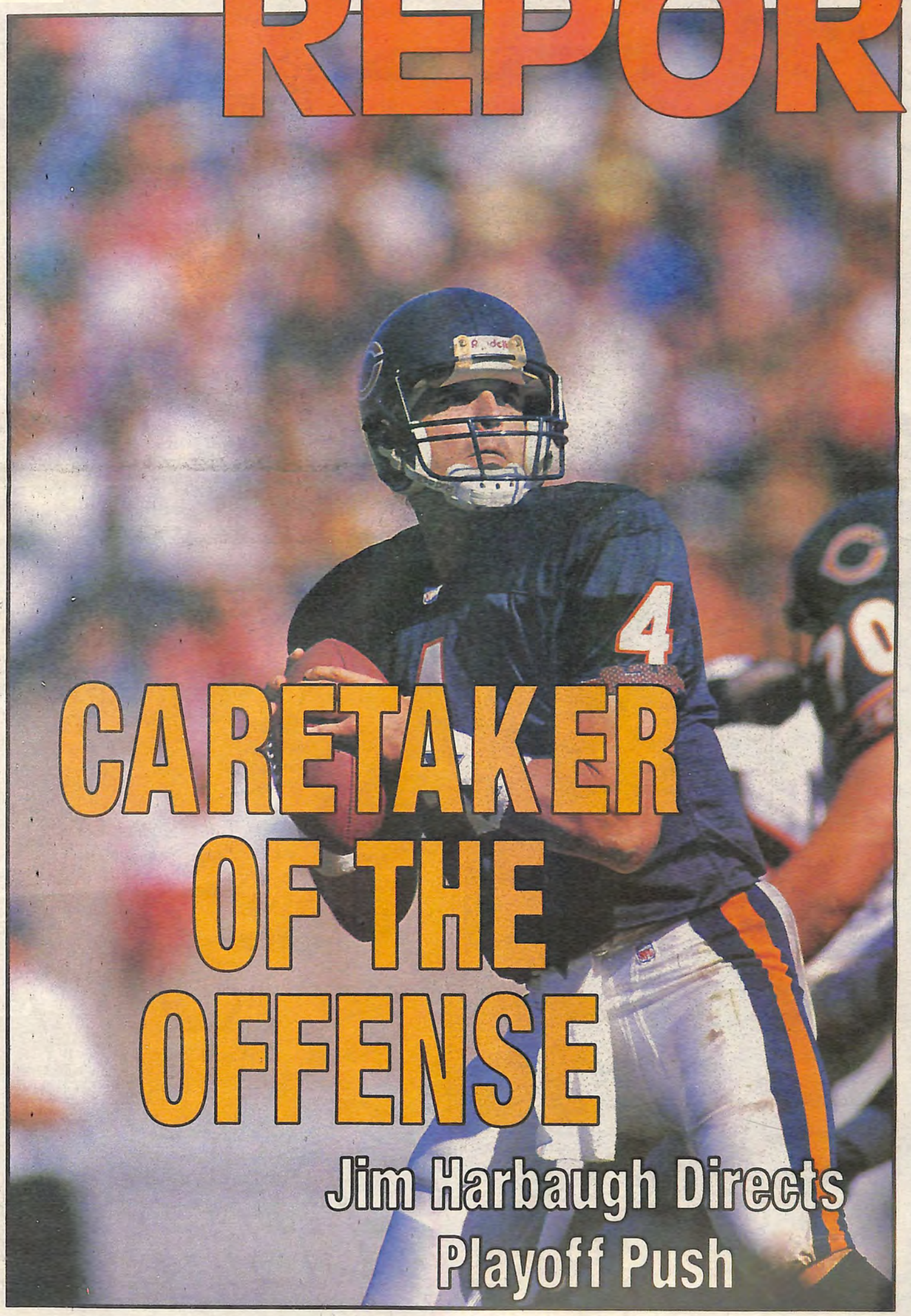

CARETAKER OF THE OFFENSE

Jim Harbaugh Directs Playoff Push

TIED FOR FIRST!

Defense Attacks Pack

Payton Snubbed in Expansion Bid

Color Poster of Tackle Troy Auzenne

Lincoln Thrives in New Role

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Attack the Pack

Defensive end Alonzo Spellman puts pressure on Packers quarterback Brett Favre in Chicago's 30-17 victory Sunday at Soldier Field. The Bears' defense scored three touchdowns in the game. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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DRAW PLAY

CARETAKER OF THE OFFENSE

BRIAN HEWITT

The oddest thing happened to the Bears this year. They were supposed to be concentrating on rebuilding. The coaches were resigned to it. The media had issued a free pass. And the fans knew, deep down, that they would have to wait for 1994 because the damage done at the end of the Ditka Era had been so devastating.

Then, out of nowhere, the Bears found themselves contending for a playoff spot with four games remaining in the regular season. The media was astonished. The fans were delighted. And the coaches had to re-think their approach.

Of course they were going to try and win every game. That doesn't change whether you're 0-12 or 12-0. But the playoff possibilities meant the game plans had to be more conservative. Instead of letting quarterback Jim Harbaugh have a try at everything the new offense had to offer, the Bears had to pull in their horns. The defense was playing too well to let the offense give games away. So the offense retrenched. Harbaugh became a caretaker quarterback. And the concept looked like it agreed with him.

Ah, yes. Jim Harbaugh.

There is a temptation to suggest that without Jim Harbaugh there would be no need for all-sports talk-radio in Chicago.

Mike Ditka's gone. Michael Jordan's gone. Mike Keenan's gone. Greg Maddux is gone. And beating dead horses just isn't a cool thing to do, not even in Denver where certain Super Bowl-starved locals swear John Elway looks more like Mr. Ed every season.

Enter Harbaugh. Perfect foil. Perfect buffoon. Perfect scapegoat.

Perfect nonsense.

Want bad quarterbacking?

Get a load of Detroit quarterback Rodney Peete on Thanksgiving at the Silverdome in the Bears' 10-6 upset victory over the Lions. Peete completed 22 of 34 passes. But they produced a harmless 167 yards. Not so harmless for the Lions were the two interceptions Peete winged. Or the two fumbles he lost. Or the five times he couldn't escape the Bears' pass rush.

Want bad quarterbacking?

Check out the pathetic sham Jim McMahon, a shell of his former shell has perpetrated on the Minnesota Vikings this season.

Want bad quarterbacking?

Look in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Philadelphia and Anaheim.

Want exciting, unpredictable, adventurous, maddening, Ann Arborian, mind-boggling, second-guessable, nimble-footed, gutty, sandlot, seat-of-the-pants, talk-provoking quarterbacking?

We give you Jim Harbaugh, still a work in progress in his seventh NFL season.

On Thanksgiving Harbaugh threw a shovel pass for an interception for the second straight week. "God, no,'' Bears coach Dave Wannstedt said when asked if it was a planned play.

Harbaugh also caught one of his own passes early in the final period near his own goal line after it had been tipped by a Lion defender. "That made me nervous,'' Harbaugh said.

He wasn't alone.

But Harbaugh finished with nine completions in 16 attempts for 123 yards and no interceptions thrown overhand. And here's where the "caretaker'' part came in: "The offense scored when we had to score,'' said Wannstedt. "Jim kept scrapping away.''

No, Bill Walsh never had to hunt up the phrase "scrapping away'' to find compliments for Joe Montana. And to be sure, the closest Harbaugh's ever been to Montana is Idaho.

But Harbaugh made the biggest play of the season to date for the overachieving Bears late in the first half. It's worth re-examination.

Defensive end Trace Armstrong, who by the way did a pretty good Doug Atkins imitation in November, had just stripped Peete of the ball and recovered at the Lions 42. There were 82 seconds remaining in the first half and the score was tied at 3-3.

Offensive coordinator Ron Turner sent two consecutive plays down from the pressbox. The first one called for Harbaugh to "look'' the strong safety over to Tom Waddle. The idea was to free Terry Obee, the second wide receiver on the play, against cornerback Ray Crockett one-on-one.

The book on Harbaugh is he tips his passes by staring at his receivers too long. This time he stared at Waddle. As soon as strong safety William White bit, Harbaugh immediately switched his focus to Obee, running a post pattern. His throw was good, Obee's diving catch was better.

And the Bears had themselves a touchdown and the lead that would hold up long enough for them to win their third road game in 12 days.

It was a big-time play by a quarterback who hasn't made very many of them since Turner and Wannstedt handed him a new playbook to go with the $13 million, four-year contract he got last winter.

And it was precisely the kind of encouragement the Bears, suddenly playoff contenders, needed offensively.

Jim Harbaugh hasn't turned the corner yet in a career littered with broken promise. But on Thanksgiving he turned a page at the right time, found a receiver without the services of Western Union and blew the Lions' minds.

Bears quarterback Jim Harbaugh completed this 15 yard pass to rookie Curtis Conway during Sunday's 30-17 romp over the Packers. The Bears converted just two of 11 third down plays. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

"That's as good a pass as I can throw,'' Harbaugh said.

"They made the play, we didn't,'' Crockett said.

"It definitely ruined my holiday,'' Detroit coach Wayne Fontes said.

Want bad quarterbacking? For now, you'll have to look at somebody other than Jim Harbaugh.

But the Soldier Field fans were still going to need convincing. The schedule said the Bears would play three games there in December. And the players, particularly defensive players, already were beginning to implore the fans to support the team; read: Harbaugh.

Part of the beauty of the Bears' three November road victories in 12 days was the lack of antagonism between the paying customers and the Bears offense. The fans in San Diego, Kansas City and Detroit didn't boo when Harbaugh got off to his customary slow starts.

The challenge for Bears fans in December was going to be patience.

Brian Hewitt covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Sun-Times.

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Payton stiffed in expansion bid

DON PIERSON

Surprise! Jacksonville selected over St. Louis for 30th NFL franchise

Walter Payton must have felt like he felt during the first five or six years of his playing career, when he would rush for 150 yards and the Bears would lose 10-3.

Payton lost his dream to be involved in ownership of an expansion franchise in St. Louis when those around him failed. Payton had carried the ball for four years, doing what was asked, providing the city with a visible and familiar face while it got its bid underway and a new stadium out of the ground.

Then the people in charge of money failed. Payton had "no dog in the fight," advisor Bud Holmes liked to say. He did well with his money as a player, but a $140 million franchise fee is not priced to attract ex-ballplayers. Jacksonville won because shoe magnate J. Wayne Weaver "had his act together" in the words of Bears' president Michael McCaskey, who had supported Payton but couldn't bring himself to vote for St. Louis.

Since retiring from the Bears after the 1987 season, Payton had been pursued by prospective NFL expansion cities from Jacksonville to Oakland to Charlotte. He picked St. Louis, the wrong one. He went to Jacksonville once and was turned off just by driving around the city.

"It just didn't happen," Payton said, still sounding upbeat after the disappointing announcement.

Payton hugged Bears' chairman of the board Ed McCaskey, who was nearly brought to tears.

"I think his alignment (with a city) was premature," Ed McCaskey said. "I told him that at the time. He was so convinced he had the right group he already had made the commitment before I discussed it. As the cards fell out on the table, you could see that group was not viable."

Payton went from being "the spokesman" for the Jerry Clinton-Fran Murray—and later James Orthwein group to a minority owner in the new St. Louis group headed by Stan Kroenke. It changed Payton's role "dramatically," one owner said, although Payton felt he would have had more say in the Kroenke group.

Payton admitted the confusion didn't help St. Louis.

"Jacksonville was the safest decision they could make," Payton said. "A small fish in a very big pond, the only game in town. If I was on that committee looking at everything out there, I would probably have been one of those to vote for Jacksonville as well simply because I don't want to get myself in a situation where we're going to be in court the next 15 years."

"I am disappointed," said Mike McCaskey. "I just don't know what it's going to mean for him. It depends on what he would like to do next."

Holmes remembered when Payton joined the St. Louis effort led by Clinton in 1989, the expansion timetable was set for two teams to begin play in 1993, so his decision wasn't premature.

"How much does this bother me? How much does it hurt? No words can describe it, but life goes on," Payton said. "The thing that bothers me most is it's not just me, but the people of St. Louis."

Payton was by far the most visible African-American involved in any of the expansion efforts. The Jacksonville group recently added former Chiefs' safety Deron Cherry, an Anheuser-Busch distributor in Kansas City.

Payton sounded like he was still interested in the business, having learned plenty about the ownership game in more than four years of representing St. Louis at NFL functions.

"Things will bounce back. The cards are being laid on the table and we haven't looked at our hand yet, so we don't know if we'll throw it in or continue to play," Payton said.

Wal-Mart family heir and shopping mall developer Kroenke said he was "surprised" that owners would pass up the 18th TV market for the 55th.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said there was consensus among owners to address further expansion, but no timetable was discussed. Ed McCaskey predicted it would come in the "near future." Dallas owner Jerry Jones predicted it would happen sooner than the last expansion of Seattle and Tampa Bay in 1974 for the 1976 season.

What the inclusion of Jacksonville and the exclusion of St. Louis and Baltimore did was send a message to other NFL cities: don't fool around and risk losing your teams. They're not easily recovered.

For 14 years, Jacksonville has served as "the other woman" to NFL owners seeking to cut better deals with their own cities. Atlanta's Rankin Smith, the Colts' Bob Irsay, former New Orleans' owner John Mecom, Houston's Bud Adams, and the Cardinals' Billy Bidwill all used Jacksonville for leverage in demonstrating that "See, other cities are willing to bend over backwards for the NFL."

In 1979, Irsay flew into the Gator Bowl by helicopter and discovered 50,000 fans sitting there waiting for him. He didn't even bring his team with him. It wasn't even an exhibition game. It was just Irsay, and 50,000 fans were there to cheer.

Weaver pulled out of the expansion derby in July in a dispute with the city of Jacksonville over the Gator Bowl lease. Just good business, Weaver explained. They were out for five weeks before a "win-win lease" was negotiated, Weaver said. It will enable him to pay visiting teams a $1.1 million gate that slides to $1.39 million after five years, about double the current average.

Before he would agree to re-enter the race, he wanted fans to prove their loyalty by buying club seats. In 10 days, Jacksonville sold 10,000 seats.

Weaver's hardball with a city starved for football was what captured the imagination and admiration of NFL owners.

Over a month ago the Carolina Panthers were tabbed as the NFL's 29th team. They will be owned by former NFL receiver Jerry Richardson, who started the Hardee's restaurant franchise.

Carolina and Jacksonville will begin play in 1995. Between now and then a team like the Rams or Patriots could end up in Baltimore or St. Louis.

NFL owners realize that a threat to move could be more than just posturing.

"It would be remiss of any city to not step up and do everything they can to keep an NFL team from moving," said Dallas owner Jones.

Don Pierson covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Tribune.

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Name: Troy Auzenne
Position: Offensive tackle
College: California
Ht., Wt.: 6-7, 290
Born: June 26, 1969
Hometown: Baldwin Park, California
Marital status: Single
Acquired: Selected in second round of 1992 draft.

Hobbies: I like a lot of different things. I like to ride my motorcycle and I like drinking, not together though. I also like being around friends.

Most prized possession: My health.

Best time of my life: Going to college. If someone would have told me I'd have that much fun in college, I would have studied harder in high school.

Worst time of my life: When my father died when I was 18 years old.

Worst job I ever had: Construction. I was what you call a "tender," someone who prepares the cement and bricks and all that stuff.

Favorite movie: "Naked Gun 2 1/2."

I stay home to watch: "Seinfeld," "Bakersfield P.D." and "Married...With Children."

Athlete I admire most: Mark Bortz, because the guy just never quits. I've been watching him play since the early '80s.

Favorite food: Mexican.

Nobody knows I: Like a little classical music.

Best thing about being a Bear: The way this city treats its athletes. There are great fans here.

I've always wanted to: Ride a bull before I die.

If I wasn't playing football I'd be: A fireman in California.

I'd give anything to meet: Jesus Christ.

My most irrational act: I have those practically every day, so it's kind of hard to narrow it down. I have too many.

Last good book I read: "A Prayer for Owen Meany," by John Irving.

Growing up I wanted to be: A fireman. I thought it would be really cool to ride in the back of the truck. I would always see them going by, not stopping for red lights.

One word that best describes me: Different.

Bears offensive tackle Troy Auzenne with girlfriend Lynn Schached.

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Chicago BEAR REPORT

Looks aren't everything

LARRY MAYER

The stat sheet was uglier than the most nightmarish blind date in history, but the Bears proved that looks obviously aren't everything.

Dominated in all phases of Sunday's NFC Central rumble at Soldier Field, the Bears escaped with a bizarre 30-17 victory as their defense scored three touchdowns and forced five turnovers to offset a lackluster performance that saw the Packers pile up 466 total yards, including 402 yards passing by Brett Favre.

The Packers moved up and down the field like an express elevator, but repeatedly failed to reach the top floor. Jeremy Lincoln rambled 80 yards for a touchdown after accepting a lateral off a Dante Jones interception, Jones scored on a 32-yard fumble recovery, and Mark Carrier dashed 34 yards with an interception for the game-clinching TD late in the fourth quarter.

The Packers outgained the Bears by 256 total yards and held a huge advantage in first downs (29-10) and time of possession (38:14-21:46). Still, it was the Bears (7-5) celebrating a victory that lifted them into a three-way tie for first place with Detroit and Green Bay. It was Chicago's fourth straight win and first at home since Oct. 3.

"Green Bay's got a heck of a football team. They really do," said Dave Wannstedt. "They made some plays offensively and their defense played well throughout the game. It came down to turnovers, and our guys made the turnovers.

"Nobody just threw the ball to us. We made the plays. There were guys pressuring them, there were guys breaking on the ball, and there were guys swarming to the ball. We've lost a lot of games where we've had the better numbers. Turnovers are the key."

The Packers marched into Chicago territory on their first eight possessions, including five in the first half. Three of those five ended in turnovers, two of which were turned into Chicago touchdowns by an opportunistic defense.

Green Bay sliced through Chicago's defense on its first possession, moving 54 yards on eight plays to the Bears' 22-yard line. Favre's pass intended for tight end Jackie Harris was intercepted by Dante Jones, who almost immediately handed it off to Lincoln when Harris grabbed Jones's arm. Lincoln scooted up the left sideline, avoided a diving tackle attempt by Favre near midfield and raced 80 yards into the end zone to make it 7-0 with 7:56 left in the first quarter.

The Packers responded by driving 71 yards in seven plays, capped by an 18-yard TD pass from Favre to Sterling Sharpe, to make it 7-7. Sharpe caught an out-pattern at the three, spun out of Donnell Woolford's grasp and bounced off Carrier at the goal line.

Early in the second quarter Green Bay kicker Chris Jacke missed a 36-yard field goal attempt wide right. It snapped a streak of 26 successful field goals from inside the 40.

Tim Worley ignited Chicago's next drive with an 11-yard run, then Roland Mitchell was whistled for interference on a deep pass intended for Terry Obee. The penalty moved the ball 41 yards to the Green Bay 28. Seven plays later Kevin Butler connected on a 29-yard field goal to put Chicago ahead 10-7 with 5:04 remaining in the first half.

Driving for a go-ahead score moments later, Favre got a brain cramp and tossed an ill-advised floater intended for Harris that was intercepted by Lincoln at the Chicago 13. Favre completed 17 of 21 passes for 215 yards in the first half, but faced a 10-7 deficit in large part because of his two interceptions.

Things turned from unusual to downright bizarre in the second half. The Bears' offense didn't see the playing field until there was 4:37 left in the third quarter. During that time the Bears had extended their lead to 17-7 before the Packers rallied to forge a 17-17 deadlock.

On first-and-10 from the Chicago 40, the Bears' defense guessed right. They sent Jones, Vinson Smith and Shaun Gayle in on a blitz. Favre started his motion to throw, but the ball squirted out of his hands. Jones scooped it up at the 32, hurdled a tackler and stumbled into the end zone to make it 17-7 with 12:50 left in the third quarter.

Jones twisted his knee on the play, returned briefly, then missed most of the fourth quarter. The injury is not expected to be serious.

Green Bay again marched down the field unimpeded, eventually settling for Jacke's 26-yard field goal that drew the Packers to within 17-10.

On the ensuing kickoff, Curtis Conway was stripped of the ball, and Green Bay recovered at the Bears' 22. Three plays later Favre hit Mark Clayton with a 22-yard TD pass that knotted the game 17-17 with 4:46 to go in the third period. Clayton broke tackles by Lincoln and Carrier on the play.

"Even when they tied it, there was a 'never-quit' attitude," Wannstedt said. "The guys just battled back."

A 29-yard pass from Jim Harbaugh to tight end Keith Jennings off a nifty scramble gave the Bears a first down at the Green Bay 28. After center Jerry Fontenot alertly recovered a Tim Worley fumble inside the seven, Butler booted a 24-yard field goal to give the Bears a 20-17 advantage with 1:38 left in the third quarter.

The Bears' defense finally held the Packers, and Brian Wagner punted for the first time. After Butler missed a 52-yard attempt short and to the right, the Packers were forced to punt again.

Butler then made it 23-17 with a 29-yarder with 5:19 left in the game. The kick was set up by a sparkling 48-yard reception by Obee, who out-fought Mitchell for the ball.

Looking for the go-ahead score late in the game, Green Bay marched to the Chicago 26. On fourth-and-one, Favre rolled out and, in the face of heavy pressure from Richard Dent, found Sharpe wide open over the middle. Sharpe uncharacteristically dropped the ball with 2:28 left in the game.

After the Bears went three-and-out, the Packers got another shot. But Carrier picked off an overthrown pass over the middle and followed a Dent-led convoy into the end zone to make it 30-17 with 1:41 to play. Carrier later put an exclamation mark on the victory by drilling receiver Robert Brooks with a bone-crushing hit over the middle in the waning moments.

It was the final spark in a raging defense-turned-offense fire that consumed the Packers and allowed the Bears to grab a share of the division lead, a feat that once seemed impossible given Chicago's 3-5 record.

"I've never been around anything like that," Wannstedt said of the three defensive touchdowns. "That's a great, great accomplishment."

Packers quarterback Brett Favre completed 36 passes for 402 yards Sunday against the Bears but threw two interceptions for touchdowns, leading to Chicago's 30-17 victory. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

Jones leads parade of TDs by defense

By David Marran
Bear Report Correspondent

Dante Jones furnished an All-Pro performance Sunday, but that was nothing new for the Bears' middle linebacker, according to Vinson Smith, and Smith should know. The veteran linebacker was next to Jones as the defense led the Bears to a 30-17 win over Green Bay before 62,236 at Soldier Field.

"I'll tell you what, if anybody needs an All-Pro around here, they better start considering Dante Jones," Smith said. "He's having a great year."

Jones, who is leading the Bears with 132 tackles and is tied for club honors with four interceptions, paved the way to Sunday's win by returning a fumble 32 yards for a TD and creating another score when he lateralled an interception to Jeremy Lincoln, who then raced 80 yards.

Jones is accomplishing all this with the added pressure of having to replace the legendary Mike Singletary while learning a new system.

With all that in mind, Smith went one better.

The six-year veteran said Jones is one of the best players he's ever seen at his position.

"In this scheme—and I've seen some good ones in Gene Lockhart and Jack Del Rio—I can honestly say Dante plays that position as well as any inside linebacker I've seen," Smith said.

It could be argued that Jones was the Bears' most potent offensive weapon Sunday. The Bears' defense outscored the Packers 21-17 and the Bear offense 21-9.

Jones killed a first-quarter Packer rally with his fourth interception of the year, and was alert enough to turn that pick into a score. After making the catch at the 14 and rumbling six yards, Jones dished the ball off to Lincoln, who sprinted for the TD.

"That's something we've been practicing since training camp," Jones said. "Luckily, Jeremy was looking and I was looking and it was a perfect handoff or lateral."

Jones wasn't quite sure how he got the ball to Lincoln. On the replay, it looked like a straight handoff.

"He was kind of close to me," Jones said. "I don't know if I tossed it or handed it off because it happened so fast. I gave him the ball."

On his second big play, Jones decided to score the touchdown himself.

With the Bears leading 10-7 in the third quarter, Packer quarterback Brett Favre dropped back to pass at the Bear 40.

Before Favre brought his arm forward, the ball slipped out of his hands and bounced backwards.

Smith was the first one to Favre, who appeared to give up on the play, and the ball.

"We got the pressure on him and he saw me and tried to release the ball before he could get set," Smith said. "When he did, he just lost it."

Jones pounced on the fumble at the 32 and took off for the goal line. After hurdling a Packer at the five and surviving an end zone hit from Darrell Thompson, Jones had his first career touchdown.

"The ball slipped out of his hands and I don't know if he knew if it was live," Jones said. "Everybody started running for it and I dove on it, picked it up and started running for the end zone."

Thompson's hit in the end zone slowed Jones for the rest of the game.

He limped off the field after the TD and missed the next couple of series. Jones tried to play in the fourth quarter but the knee hurt too much.

"Someone fell on me and bent it a little bit," Jones said. "They X-rayed it and the trainers and doctors say the knee is stable, so hopefully it's not too bad."

LEADERS: Sunday's win puts the Bears into a first place tie with Green Bay and Detroit in the NFC Central at 7-5.

The Bears, though, weren't too enamored with that, opting instead to focus on their team motto: One game at a time.

"We're just going to take 'em one at a time," said Dave Wannstedt. "We can enjoy this now but the talk tomorrow will be Tampa."

Said tackle Jay Leeuwenburg: "It's nice. My personal motto has been: One at a time. You can't start looking ahead."

The Bears play at Tampa Bay, followed by home games against Denver and Detroit before closing the season on the road against the Rams.

With two division games remaining, the Bears basically control their own destiny.

"It's nice to be in that position," Wannstedt said. "It's nice to have an opportunity and that's all we have right now. It doesn't guarantee anything."

The Bears still might need a little help considering their division record is 3-3 while the Packers' is 4-2. Division record is the second tiebreaker after head-to-head play.

LINE DANCE: When the Packers trashed the Bears 17-3 Oct. 31, Jim Harbaugh was sacked seven times.

In Sunday's rematch, Harbaugh was sacked just once and was not under constant siege as he was in Lambeau.

"The offensive line has gotten better," Wannstedt said. "There's no question about that. That was the biggest difference from the first game."

Green Bay's all-world sackmaster Reggie White was a non-factor. He had no sacks and just one tackle while facing a double team from Leeuwenburg and guard John Wojciechowski.

"Jay Leeuwenburg and John Wojciechowski need to be commended," Wannstedt said. "They moved Reggie inside some and had him outside some. Both of those guys stepped it up a notch."

MONGO: Defensive tackle Steve McMichael played in his Bear-record 187th consecutive game Sunday.

The 14-year veteran broke Walter Payton's mark of 186 straight games. If "Mongo" plays in the Bears' next four games he will become the Bears' all-time leader with 191 games played. Payton is the current leader at 190.

"I couldn't have gotten it done if the Bears hadn't kept me around for all this time," McMichael said. "God, my father and my mother gave me the genetics and the luck and the desire I have to play this game keeps me going."

McMichael celebrated his record-setting day with five solo tackles and a fumble recovery.

A FIRST: The Bears' special teams unit was introduced in pre-game ceremonies at Soldier Field.

It was the first time in recent memory that happened. The offense or defense is generally announced.

BEAR BITS: The Bears lead the all-time series 82-59-6 ... The Packers haven't won two in a row at Soldier Field since 1972-1973. Green Bay beat the Bears 17-3 in Chicago last year. ... Sunday was the highest scoring Bear-Packer game since Green Bay's 40-28 win in 1989. ... The Bears thwarted the Packers' attempt at a rare sweep Sunday. Since 1973, Green Bay has only swept the Bears in 1981 and 1989. ... The 29-yard reception by tight end Keith Jennings in the third quarter was the longest of his career. His previous long catch was 23-yards vs. Detroit Sept. 6, 1992. ... Jones' four interceptions are the most by a Bear middle linebacker since Dick Butkus picked off four in 1971. A linebacker hasn't led the Bears in INTs since Ross Brupbacher had seven in 1976. ... Kevin Butler's 53-yard miss was his first miss from at least 50 yards against the Packers. In his 17 prior Bear-Packer games, "Butt-head" has hit from 50, 51 and 52-yards. ... Favre set a Packer record and a record for Bears' opponents with 36 completions. ... The Bears have won their last six after playing on Thanksgiving dating to 1964.

FAMILIAR FACES: Former Bears linebacker Jim Morrissey played special teams for the Packers and made one tackle. He was wearing the No. 51 he donned during his 10 years in Chicago. ... Morrissey became the 53rd man to play for the Bears and the Packers.

DECLINE: There was a time when running back Neal Anderson used to beat up on the Packers.

In his first 11 games against Green Bay, Anderson averaged 5.1 yards a carry. Included in that average were runs of 80, 73 and 52 yards.

Lately, though, Anderson's production against the Pack has dipped. In his last four games vs. Green Bay, Anderson has averaged 2.9 yards a carry. He gained 15 yards on nine carries Sunday.

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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

GAME STATISTICS

SCORING SUMMARY

Green Bay Packers	7	0	10	0	17
Chicago Bears	7	3	10	10	30

Bears, 1, 7:56, D. Jones interception and 6-yard return, lateral to J. Lincoln 80-yard return (K. Butler, kick) 0-7

Packers, 1, 4:45, S. Sharpe 18-yard pass from B. Favre (C. Jacke, kick) (6-71, 3:11) 7-7

Bears, 2, 5:04, K. Butler 29-yard field goal (9-69, 3:38) 7-10

Bears, 3, 12:50, D. Jones 32-yard fumble return (K. Butler, kick) 7-17

Packers, 3, 6:14, C. Jacke 26-yard field goal (12-48, 6:36) 10-17

Packers, 3, 4:46, M. Clayton 22-yard pass from B. Favre (C. Jacke, kick) (3-22, 1:28) 17-17

Bears, 3, 1:38, K. Butler 24-yard field goal (7-51, 3:08) 17-20

Bears, 4, 5:19, K. Butler 29-yard field goal (6-69, 2:40) 17-23

Bears, 4, 1:41, M. Carrier 34-yard interception return (K. Butler, kick) 17-30

Attendance: 62,236; Tickets Distributed: 67, 026; Unused: 4,790; Time 2:57

Weather: Cloudy, high in the lower 40's; Temperature: 38; Humidity: 85; Wind: S 10 mph

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Packers	Bears
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	29	10
By Rushing	8	1
By Passing	20	6
By Penalty	1	3
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	6-13-46%	2-11-18%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-3-33%	0-0-0%
TOTAL NET YARDS	466	210
Total Offensive Plays (inc. time thrown passing)	83	44
Average gain per offensive play	5.6	4.8
NET YARDS RUSHING	64	69
Total Rushing Plays	29	23
Average gain per rushing play	2.2	3.0
NET YARDS PASSING	402	141
Times thrown — yards lost attempting to pass	0-0	1-0
Gross yards passing	402	141
PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INT.	54-36-3	20-10-1
Average gain per pass play (inc. # thrown passing)	7.4	6.7
KICKOFFS-In End Zone-Touchbacks	4-0-0	7-3-1
PUNTS Number and Average	2-45.5	4-38.8
Had Blocked	0	0
FGs-PATs Had Blocked	0-0	0-0
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)	0	130
No. and Yards Punt Returns	2-0	1-10
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	6-148	3-65
No. and Yards Interception Returns	1-0	3-120
PENALTIES Number and Yards	5-71	3-15
FUMBLES Number and Lost	3-2	3-1
TOUCHDOWNS	2	3
Rushing	0	0
Passing	2	0
DEFENSIVE/KICKING GAME	0/0	3/0
EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts	2-2	3-3
FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts	1-2	3-4
SAFETIES	0	0
FINAL SCORE	17	30
TIME OF POSSESSION	38:14	21:46

GREEN BAY PACKERS

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Bennett	10	35	3.5	7	0
Thompson	13	27	2.1	10	0
Favre	4	15	3.8	20	0
Brooks	1	-6	-6.0	-6	0
Wilson	1	-7	-7.0	-7	0

PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Favre	54	36	402	0	0	2	34	3

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Sharpe	10	114	18	1
Harris	6	72	28	0
Bennett	6	47	13	0
Clayton	6	44	22	1
Brooks	4	56	20	0
Thompson	2	49	34	0
West	2	20	11	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Evans	1	0	0	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Wagner	2	91	45.5	1	0	48

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Brooks	2	1	0	0	0
Downed	1	0	0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Brooks	4	0	96	30	0
Harris	2	0	52	28	0
Touchback	1	0	0	0	0

CHICAGO BEARS

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Worley	11	49	4.5	11	0
Anderson	9	15	1.7	9	0
Green	1	5	5.0	5	0
Harbaugh	2	0	0.0	1	0

PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Harbaugh	20	10	141	1	0	0	48	1

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Obee	4	73	48	0
Jennings	3	38	29	0
Conway	1	15	15	0
Waddle	1	11	11	0
Heyward	1	4	4	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Lincoln	1	80	80	1
Carrier	1	34	34	1
Jones	1	6	6	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Gardocki	4	155	38.8	0	2	49

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Obee	1	0	10	10	0
Touchback	1	0	0	0	0

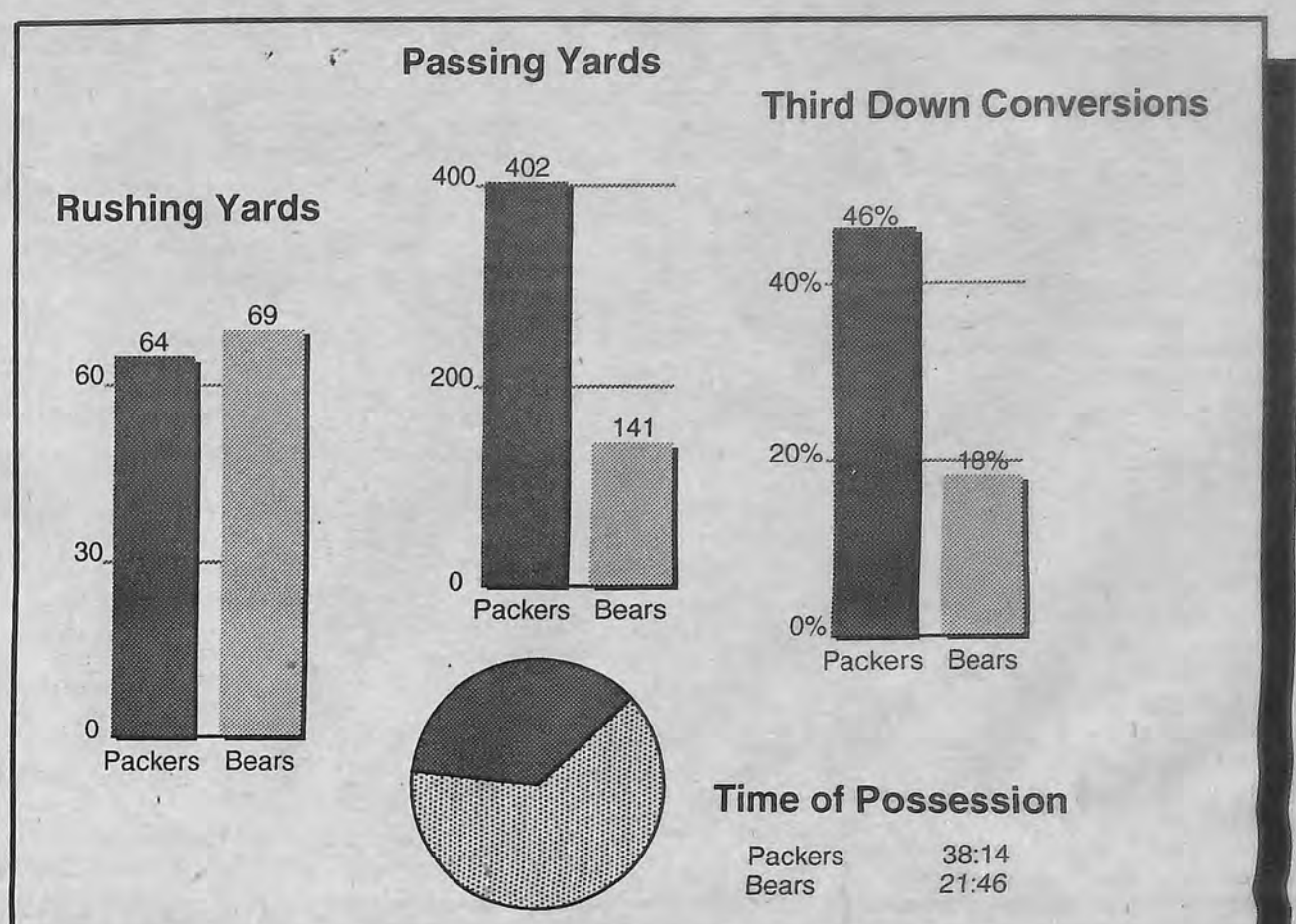
KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Conway	2	0	44	23	0
Green	1	0	21	21	0
Out of Bounds	1	0	0	0	0

CHICAGO BEARS
Unofficial

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Woolford	10	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Gayle	8	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Cain	8	0	0.0	0.0	0	2	0
McMichael	5	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	1
Carrier	6	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	0
Douglass	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Jones	4	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	0
Lincoln	4	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	0
Armstrong	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Zorich	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Dent	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Cox	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Snow	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Mangum	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Ryan	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Baker	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Fontenot	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Green	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Harbaugh	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Miniefield	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Obee	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

GREEN BAY PACKERS
Unofficial

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Koonce	5	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Butler	6	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Holland	4	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Jurkovic	4	0	1.0	0.0	0	0	0
Paup	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Bennett	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Simmons	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Teague	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Walker	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Brock	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Buckley	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Mitchell	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
White	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Bennett	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Coleman	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Evans	0	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	0
McNabb	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Morrissey	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Prior	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0



Wheels fall off Packers

DOUG BUFFONE

The Bears wanted the Packers to come into Soldier Field throwing the football, and Green Bay played right into the Bears' hands to a certain extent. Even though Brett Favre had a monster day, his mistakes cost Green Bay dearly.

The Packers were able to move the football, but they fell apart once they treaded into the red zone.

The Bears didn't really shut the Packers' running game down, and I was surprised Green Bay abandoned the run without first making the Bears stop them. I think Mike Holmgren got outcoached in this contest.

The Bears' defense did it again. That's beginning to sound repetitive. All the numbers in the world are not going to overcome big plays like they made. The Bears forced five turnovers Sunday—interceptions by Dante Jones, Jeremy Lincoln and Mark Carrier, and fumble recoveries by Jones and Steve McMichael.

Amazingly, the Bears cashed three of those in for defensive scores. I don't think I've ever seen a performance like that. By comparison, the Bears' defense scored just one touchdown all of last season, and that came in the final quarter of the final game at Dallas.

I always say that if you force three turnovers you'll win 75 percent of the time, and that was true Sunday. The Packers held the ball for 36 minutes against Tampa Bay a week earlier and had to pull the game out in the final seconds. On Sunday they held it for over 38 minutes and lost. That tells me the offense is able to move the ball but is very prone to making some big mistakes.

They obviously have no problems moving the ball between the 20s, but that's not where you score points. Getting it into the end zone is an entirely different challenge. Again, I was surprised they didn't try to establish the run more, especially the way they ran the ball on that final drive against the Bears up in Green Bay. They opened the same way Sunday, but quickly forgot about their ground game.

I guess you couldn't really blame them considering how they were moving the ball through the air, but that still doesn't mean a thing unless you can punch it in the end zone. Part of it, of course, is the Bears' defense. They're playing extremely well right now. They may slip a few rungs after giving up 466 total yards, but getting their fourth straight win is the important thing. The only stat that matters is wins and losses.

The Bears played mistake-free football for the most part, and that's the reason they won. Jim Harbaugh threw an interception and I thought Curtis Conway almost blew the game when he fumbled away that kickoff. But the Bears responded in a big way. They did not let the adversity from those mistakes affect them. In fact, they rose to the challenge, and that's a sign of a good football team.

Green Bay, on the other hand, could not overcome a myriad of mistakes. I've never seen an offense roll up so many yards but give away a ballgame. Brett Favre made several poor decisions that would have resulted in a cascade of boos had Harbaugh done the same thing. Think about that for a minute.

The Packers came in and took the Bears' running game away. That resulted in a less than effective offense. That's something the Bears must improve upon this Sunday in Tampa Bay. This by no means is an easy game. The Buccaneers play well at home. They've already defeated Minnesota and Detroit on their home field. The Bucs are not a pushover.

Tampa Bay has been an up and down team so far this season. The Bears forced seven turnovers in crushing the Bucs 47-17 earlier in the season. Turnovers are crucial, but you can't count on them every week.

Bucs quarterback Craig Erickson is an up and coming talent, but being young, he gets rattled under pressure. The Bears blitzed only about three times Sunday--all with good results. You may see them blitz a little more against the Bucs, particularly if the front four can't generate adequate pressure.

None of the Bears' remaining games are impossible to win, which puts them in good position for the playoff race. Talking about playoff possibilities is something I thought would have to wait.

No one expected the Bears to be in this position, but it sure is fun to watch them do well. A lot of confidence was generated during their three straight road victories, and you can almost see the attitude of the defense. When they go on the field, they believe they're going to win, and that's half the battle. Let's just hope they can continue to win the other half.

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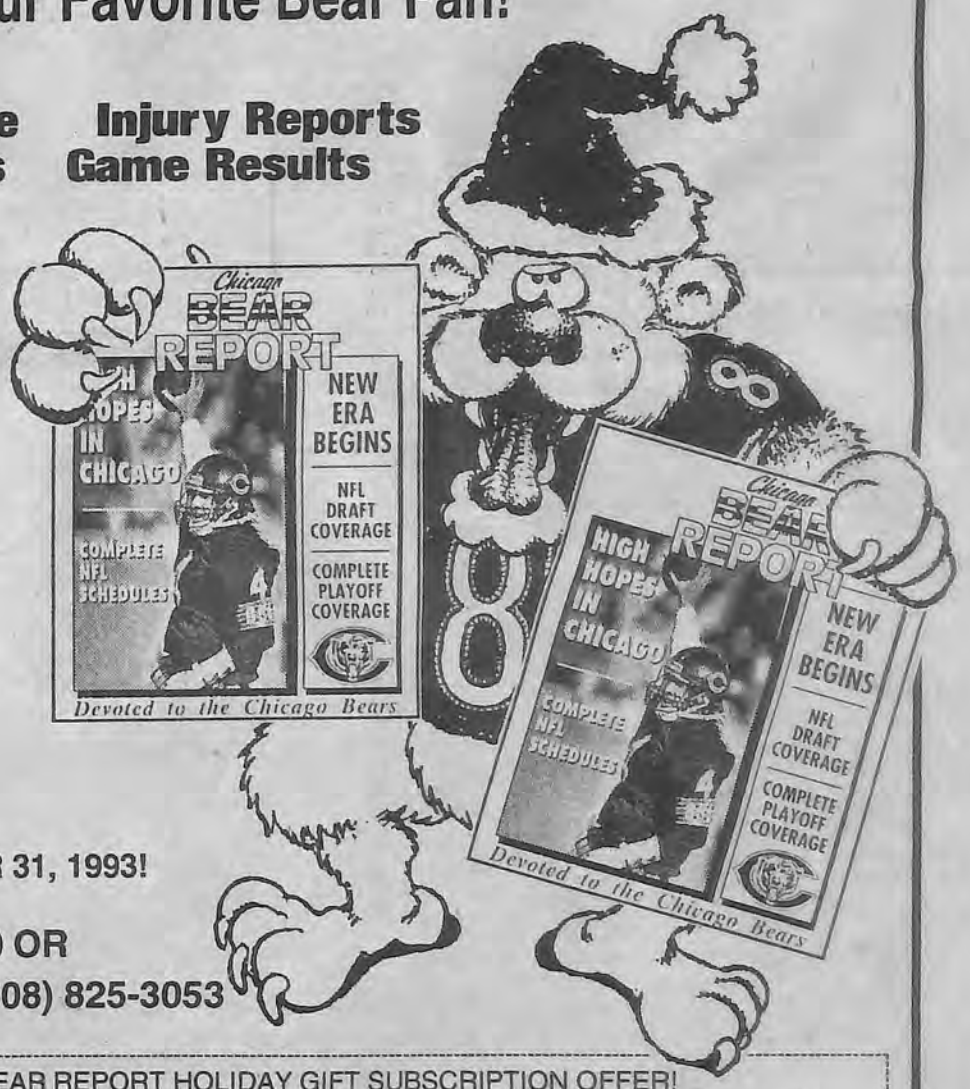

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On-the-job training paying off for Lincoln

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

The Bears seemingly now control their own destiny, but they wouldn't be sitting quite as pretty if it wasn't for second-year cornerback **Jeremy Lincoln**.

Filling in for injured regular **Anthony Blaylock**, Lincoln has made a crucial interception in each of the last three games. All have led to Bears victories. Lincoln picked off David Krieg to set up Chicago's late game-winning score at Kansas City Nov. 21, then thwarted drives deep in Bears' territory with interceptions of Detroit's Rodney Peete Thanksgiving Day and Green Bay's Brett Favre Sunday. Sunday in Tampa he will attempt to become the first Bear with interceptions in four consecutive games since Dave Duerson did it in 1986.

Though he had a poor day tackling Sunday, Lincoln's big plays helped carry the Bears to their fourth straight victory and gave them a share of first place. In addition to his interception, Lincoln also rambled 80 yards for his first pro touchdown after **Dante Jones** lateralled an interception to him.

"The surface out there wasn't very good and we missed too many tackles early," said **Dave Wannstedt**. "For the most part, though, Jeremy Lincoln again stepped up and made some plays. Jeremy's a very intelligent player. He's got a lot of ability and he's getting some great on-the-job training."

Shoddy tackling led to some big numbers for the Green Bay offense. Quarterback Brett Favre passed for 402 yards and his 36 completions were the most ever against the Bears in a single game. Chicago defenders were cognizant of the fact that three defensive touchdowns enabled them to dodge a rather large bullet.

"I'm glad it happened, but we didn't tackle very well and they went through us," Lincoln said. "Every defense does through that. On the plus side of it, we had the right turnovers at the right time."

Lincoln said the lateral from Jones is a play the Bears practice at least once a week. On a similar play on Thanksgiving Day, Jones opted to keep the ball himself because there was a Lions player right behind Lincoln.

"That was a great heads-up play," Wannstedt said. "That's something the guys have been working on since training camp. Those things just don't happen."

RAVE REVIEWS: The Bears' offense didn't exactly pile up the pinball machine numbers like the Packers, but excellent performances were turned in by receiver **Terry Obee** and offensive tackle **Jay Leeuwenburg** to name a few. Obee caught four passes for 73 yards, including a 48-yarder he swiped from Roland Mitchell that set up an insurance score late in the fourth quarter.

The ball was slightly underthrown and Obee made a leaping, twisting grab. Obee had drawn a 41-yard pass interference penalty on Mitchell on a similar pass earlier in the game.

"We're taught to get the ball at its highest point, so I jumped and was able to catch it over him," said Obee. "I don't think he ever had the ball. When I'm out there going for the ball I'm not really concerned about where the defender's at. On the pass interference, he had his back turned, so I knew I could get to the ball quicker than he could."

Obee also returned one punt for 10 yards.

"What can you say about him? Terry Obee continues to make plays and is doing a great job on special teams," Wannstedt said.

Leeuwenburg, with assistance from guard **John Wojciechowski**, waved his magic wand and made Reggie White disappear. After White led a Packers defense that sacked **Jim Harbaugh** seven times in Green Bay's 17-3 win Oct. 31, White was limited to one tackle and no sacks Sunday.

Harbaugh completed 10 of 20 passes for 141 yards and one interception. He was sacked once for no gain on the play. **Tim Worley** rushed for 49 yards on 11 carries, while **Neal Anderson** gained just 15 yards on nine carries.

Anderson continues to look like he's lost a step and will gradually be phased out of the offense. An ideal example occurred on the game's third play from scrimmage. Anderson swept around right end and was dragged down from behind by linebacker George Koonce before Anderson could turn the corner. It was a play Anderson would have gained 15-20 yards on a few years ago.

Additionally, the Bears converted just two of 11 third down opportunities.

Rookie first round draft pick **Curtis Conway** picked up one of those with a nifty 15-yard reception off a flanker screen on third-and-four. But Conway fumbled away a third quarter kickoff that led to a Packers touchdown that knotted the score 17-17.

FIRST TD: Like Lincoln and Jones, **Mark Carrier** scored his first pro TD when he intercepted a Favre pass and returned it 34 yards, extending the Bears' lead to 30-17 with 1:41 to play.

"We were playing our basic defense and I was just back-pedaling," Carrier explained. "I saw Mark Clayton do a square-in. Somebody put some great pressure on and Brett Favre had to throw off his back foot. **Shaun Gayle** was coming across the field and it made Mark Clayton hold up a little bit. I just stayed with the ball, caught the ball, and got in there."

It was Carrier's fourth interception of the season and tied him with Jones for the team lead.

"Mark Carrier has been having an excellent year all along for us," Wannstedt said. "He's made plays every week since Game One. Mark has been playing extremely well."

After dominating the Lions, the Bears' defensive line didn't generate much if any pressure on Favre. The Green Bay quarterback threw 54 passes and was not sacked at all.

"Late in the game the pressure got better," Wannstedt said. "Early, Favre did a nice job. He moves around the pocket and picked up two or three first downs scrambling, and that's going to happen against him. I thought for the most part he played well."

Jeremy Lincoln tackles Packers receiver Robert Brooks during Chicago's 30-17 win. Lincoln scored his first NFL touchdown in the victory. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

BEARS Report Card

POSITION	GRADE	COMMENTS
QB	C-	Jim Harbaugh completed only 10 of 20 for 141 yards and wasn't a threat running as offense could muster just three field goals.
RB	C-	Tim Worley (11 carries for 49 yards) looked sharp, but Neal Anderson (9-15) was slow to hit holes and wasn't much of a factor.
WR/TE	C+	WR Terry Obee (4 catches for 73 yards) made a crucial 48-yard reception and Keith Jennings had a career-long 29-yarder. Tom Waddle (1 catch for 11 yards) was not a factor.
OL	B-	Bears rushed for only 69 yards, but Packers had only one sack for no gain after recording seven sacks in previous meeting. Reggie White had just one tackle.
DL	C-	Steve McMichael had a fumble recovery, but defensive line did not generate much pressure. Brett Favre completed 36 of 54 passes for 402 yards and was not sacked.
LB	B+	Future Pro Bowler Dante Jones scored one TD on fumble recovery and set up another with fourth interception. Joe Cain and Ron Cox also made key tackles.
DB	B	Favre completed more passes than any QB ever against Bears, but Jeremy Lincoln and Mark Carrier both scored TDs to ignite victory.
ST	C	Kevin Butler hit 3 of 4 field goals and Chris Gardocki placed two punts inside-the-20, but Curtis Conway had key second half fumble that Pack converted into tying TD.

Sleeping with the enemy

Playing former mates "weird" for Morrissey

By Mike Conklin
Special to Bear Report

Jim Morrissey was not especially looking forward to Sunday's game.

After eight years of following the same routine for football games at Soldier Field—drive to the contest, report to the locker room in the stadium's northwest corner, warm up, play, and go home—it was a lot different this time.

On Sunday Morrissey arrived on a bus, used the locker room on the northeast side, and exited the field to the right instead of the left. "I hope I don't go the wrong way," he said last week.

Morrissey, an 11th round draft pick in 1985 and a member of the Super Bowl championship team, certainly isn't the first Bear to return to Soldier Field to play for a different National Football League club against his old mates. Still, there always is something distinct when that ex-Chicago player's new employer happens to be the hated Green Bay Packers, whose rivalry with the Monsters of the Midway is the longest and most storied in professional sports.

"It will be a weird feeling," Morrissey predicted last week. "I guess I don't know exactly how I'll react. I'm just taking everything one week at a time. I know everyone's been real nice to me since I arrived. Mostly, they want to know what guys are like on the Bears."

Trades are not an integral part of the NFL way of life. However, with free agency becoming a bigger part of the way business is done, it is likely we will see more and more movement among the players. Still, for many veteran followers of the Bears and Packers, it will take a long time to get used to seeing players on these Central Division clubs switching uniforms.

The Cubs and White Sox have been quicker to exchange players. Don't forget, Ron Santo and Don Kessinger—two of the most famous North Siders at their positions on the famous 1969 team—later spent time playing for the South Siders. Kessinger even managed the White Sox.

In the case of the Bears and Packers, you can almost count on two hands the number of players who wore both uniforms—aside from kickers, who seem to pop up anywhere at any given time. (Ex-Bear punter Brian Wagner currently is with the Packers.)

In recent years, the most prominent players would be Jim Grabowski, Bobby Douglass, Jack Concannon, Mike Tomczak, Steve Wright, Dick Gordon, Ernie Janet, Bob Hyland, Lee Roy Caffey and Mike McCoy.

In most cases, the players had been released by one team and picked up by another. In no recorded instance did the new player bring along his old playbook.

The biggest trade occurred in 1970, involving Hyland, a center, Caffey, a linebacker, and Elijah Pitts, a running back.

The three Packers, among the final remnants of the franchise's glory days, were shipped to Chicago after the Bears lost the celebrated coin flip with Pittsburgh for the No. 1 draft choice, which turned out to be Terry Bradshaw. George Halas gave the Bears' No. 2 choice to Green Bay for the three players.

Interestingly, the deal really didn't do wonders for either team. Pitts never played for the Bears and Hyland and Caffey were gone after one season. Packer coach Phil Bengtson selected Mike McCoy from Notre Dame and got to use him only one year, having been fired the following season.

"I think the big thing about playing against your old team is that you always wanted to be at your best," said Grabowski, who came to the Bears in 1971 after five seasons with the Packers. "It wasn't so much that you were angry. You just wanted the respect of your past teammates."

In Grabowski's case, it was a return to his hometown. He had starred at Chicago's Taft High School and the University of Illinois.

The fullback played only one season with the Bears but has become linked to the team because of former coach Mike Ditka's "Grabowski" references.

"I think most people still identify me as an ex-Packer," Grabowski said. "Some of those teams in Chicago were so bad in the 1970s, everyone's still trying to forget."

The most celebrated homecoming had to be Douglass's. Following seven mostly controversial seasons here, the big quarterback had cups of coffee with several teams before landing in Green Bay for a final season in 1978. He was a backup to David Whitehurst.

In the first meeting between the two teams in Lambeau Field, Bobby, who today lives just a few blocks from Halas Hall, merely was a holder for kicks. The Packers beat the Bears 24-14.

The Bears won the second game in Soldier Field 14-0. But this time Whitehurst was knocked out with an injury in the fourth quarter and Douglass, booed constantly by Chicago fans during his final seasons here, drew cheers when he uncorked some of his patented scrambles.

On one, he jolted linebacker Gary Campbell with a stiff-arm. On another, he collided with Doug Plank and the Bears' hardest hitter limped away from the encounter.

"Sometimes it can be an emotional thing," Grabowski said. "You see old friends. They tell you their problems and you tell them yours.

"In my case, I just look at it as something very fortunate. I got to play for the two teams I admired most growing up in Chicago."

Mike Conklin's "Odds and Ins" column appears Monday through Friday in the Chicago Tribune.

After eight years with the Bears, linebacker Jim Morrissey came to Soldier Field as a Green Bay Packer for the first time last Sunday. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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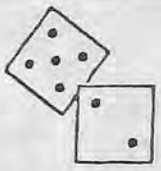

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Chicago

BEAR REPORT

EXTRA POINTS

Stifling defense not a surprise

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

They've ascended like a bungee jumper on the rebound, this stingy defense that most recently piloted the Bears to three consecutive road victories in a mere 12 days.

Since Opening Day the Bears' defense has climbed from 24th in the league to fifth, trailing only Pittsburgh (253.5), the Raiders (262.9), the Giants (270.4) and the Vikings (275.1) in average yards allowed entering Sunday's game against Green Bay.

Many are surprised by the defense's resurgence, but don't count defensive coordinator **Bob Slowik** among them.

"With the talent we have and the effort they give on the field—which was evident when we first arrived here—it doesn't surprise me," Slowik said. "And it doesn't surprise me that they've continued to get better."

For the eighth straight week, the Bears improved their average yards allowed. In their four November games, they did not permit a second half touchdown, giving up just a field goal to each opponent. Only the Giants (138) have allowed more points than the Bears (147).

The architect of the defense, of course, is rookie head coach **Dave Wannstedt**, who guided the No.1-ranked defense of the Super Bowl championship Cowboys last season. Slowik also came over from Dallas, joining holdover **Dave McGinnis** (linebackers) and newcomers **Clarence Brooks** (defensive line) and **Carlos Mainord** (defensive assistant).

Trace Armstrong is one of many players flourishing under the new scheme. He was named NFC Defensive Player of the Week following a Thanksgiving Day performance that included two sacks, one forced fumble and two fumble recoveries.

"It just so happened it was Trace's day," Slowik said. "He's worked like that every week and he's played hard every week. He did a great job and had a real good game. I think it's because of his work ethic. There was a time when it was frustrating for him because he was busting his butt and the sacks and big plays weren't coming. But he never slowed up."

Armstrong (9.5 sacks) and **Richard Dent** (10.5) are among the top five sackers in the NFC. They shared the field with two others last Sunday: Green Bay's Reggie White (10.5) and Bryce Paup (10.5). Saints linebacker Renaldo Turnbull leads the pack with 12.

One of the most pleasant surprises for the Bears this season has been the play of cornerback **Jeremy Lincoln**. Having stepped into the starting lineup when **Anthony Blaylock** injured his hand against the Vikings, Lincoln made key interceptions in victories over Kansas City and Detroit.

"He's played beyond expectations as far as being a play-maker and making important plays," Slowik said. "He's also tackling better than we expected. There's no question that part is a surprise."

Slowik said that Chicago's veteran secondary—including **Donnell Woolford**, **Shaun Gayle** and **Mark Carrier**—has been a great help in Lincoln's development. Lincoln missed his entire rookie season with a knee injury last year.

"Those guys are extremely helpful to Jeremy," Slowik added. "They all talk during the course of a game about what to expect, what to watch for, and what coverages they're in. They all make sure they're communicating."

Carrier attributed the team's success to a variety of factors.

"I think it's consistency, and we're getting better and stronger as the game goes on," he said. "It's preparation—coming out in the second half and making adjustments. It's also, of course, conditioning. You've got to be able to keep your strength all the way to the end."

Defensive end Trace Armstrong is excelling under the new scheme. He was named Defensive Player of the Week following the Thanksgiving Day victory over the Detroit Lions. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

NEW FACE: The Bears added another offensive lineman to the mix when they signed guard **Tom Myslinski** last week off the Buffalo Bills' practice squad. Myslinski was drafted by the Cowboys in the fourth round of the 1992 draft and worked with Bears offensive line coach **Tony Wise** in Dallas' training camp. Myslinski was waived late in camp.

After leaving Dallas, the 6-foot-2, 295-pounder from Tennessee signed with the Browns but was not active for any games. He later signed with the Redskins and played in one game.

The Bears made room for Myslinski by waiving fullback John Ivlow. Ivlow then signed on with the 49ers practice squad, where he'll learn under personal hero Tom Rathman.

The Bears also signed running back **Dewell Brewer** to their practice squad. Brewer is an undrafted free agent who spent training camp with the Bears in Platteville. He was released on Aug. 24 when the Bears cut to 60. In three preseason games Brewer rushed nine times for 18 yards and caught two passes for 12 yards.

POWER LINE: Lost in the shuffle of a three-game winning streak was the fact that the Bears' much-maligned offensive line had vastly improved. Chicago had strung together back-to-back 100-yard rushing days for the first time all season.

That feat did not go unnoticed by the Bears' defense.

"You know the defense is going to be pretty solid, but I think the big difference was that our offense improved so much," Carrier said. "They did a much better job with ball control. With a running game like that, it keeps the opponent off the field, which keeps us fresh enough to stop them."

SUPER DAVE: Winning three straight on the road in such a short span of time is a credit to a well-prepared coaching staff, particularly one that deals with a mostly inexperienced team.

"I'd like to think that we've matured as a team as the weeks I've gone on," Wannstedt said. "We've been able to keep our focus that we have another game coming up, and that we've got to win no matter where it is or when it is."

There's been talk that Wannstedt is emerging as a candidate for Coach of the Year. While he scoffs at those suggestions, his players sound like firm backers.

"He's a down to earth guy," Gayle said. "In the NFL coaches are given a lot of responsibility and a lot of hype. Not everybody can handle it as well as others. I think he's done a fine job."

"There are 50 factors I've observed that make him a good coach," added quarterback **Jim Harbaugh**.

NFL standings

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Green Bay	7	5	0	.583	255	218
Chicago	7	5	0	.583	201	164
Detroit	7	5	0	.583	210	189
Minnesota	6	6	0	.500	192	217
Tampa Bay	3	9	0	.250	170	297
Eastern						
N.Y. Giants	9	3	0	.750	225	152
Dallas	7	4	0	.636	234	169
Philadelphia	5	6	0	.455	175	212
Phoenix	4	8	0	.333	238	205
Washington	3	9	0	.250	188	273
Western						
San Francisco	9	3	0	.750	353	204
New Orleans	7	5	0	.583	237	246
Atlanta	5	7	0	.417	245	283
L.A. Rams	3	9	0	.250	161	284

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Miami	9	3	0	.750	248	205
Buffalo	8	4	0	.667	226	177
N.Y. Jets	7	5	0	.583	246	179
Indianapolis	4	8	0	.333	163	270
New England	1	11	0	.083	140	240
Central						
Houston	8	4	0	.667	289	197
Pittsburgh	7	5	0	.583	248	210
Cleveland	6	6	0	.500	219	238
Cincinnati	1	11	0	.083	136	272
Western						
Kansas City	9	3	0	.750	235	186
Denver	7	5	0	.583	293	210
L.A. Raiders	7	5	0	.583	219	225
San Diego	6	6	0	.500	208	205
Seattle	5	7	0	.417	190	217

Things that make you go hmmm...

The Bears and the Packers have met 146 times, but only once in the postseason, a 33-14 Chicago win in 1941.

PROGRAM ON THE RISE

Addition of pro scout just one of upcoming moves

FRED MITCHELL

The Bears are heading south to face the Tampa Bay Bucs Sunday, but the future of Dave Wannstedt's program appears to be on the rise.

The postseason may or may not involve playoff competition for the Bears, but it definitely will see the front-office becoming more active and aggressive in their free-agent search around the NFL.

Established offensive linemen, wide receivers and running backs are likely high priorities on the Bears' free-agent shopping list, depending on what happens to some of their own free agents, including defensive end Richard Dent, running back Neal Anderson and others.

"In terms of our plan, we have pretty much focused in on what types of guys we are looking for and what we need," said Bears director of college scouting, Rod Graves. "We are going to have all our coaches involved. We are actually going to have two or three opinions on a lot of these top players."

The organization plans to hire a new pro scout after next April's college draft. Before that decision is made, the Bears plan to carry over the progress of this regular season into the offseason.

They hope to improve their team through both the draft and free agency.

A team salary cap will be in place for the 1994 season, which figures to be in the neighborhood of $32 million for the Bears.

"About this time of year we have a pretty good handle on where the top players are. In fact, I am trying to get things prepared for our BLESTO (college scouting combine) meeting in early December. Then we will review all of our top players with them," said Graves.

"Our scouts will be back in the first week of January and we will return our attention to free agency. We will start to review our top candidates from the other teams and we will actually spend two weeks doing that. Then that will take us right into Feb. 17, when free agency actually begins. But everything is going to be channeled toward that date, when we will actually get our scouts involved in evaluating top players. That is something we have not been involved in that heavily in the past. At this point, our input is crucial and necessary. We are going to do the best job we can."

The Bears treaded modestly in the free-agent market last off-season, signing fullback Craig Heyward, cornerback Anthony Blaylock, linebacker Joe Cain and guard Vernice Smith (now with Washington).

They lost fullback Brad Muster (Saints), tight end James Thornton (Jets) and safety David Tate (Giants).

"We plan on adding a pro scout next season so we will have a guy who actually tracks pro players in the league all year long," said Graves. "That will kind of reduce the input that our college scouts have to do with it. But at least for right now, we need to have their input for evaluating these guys. We will have a basement full of tapes, so we will have access to all the film we need."

The Bears are one of a few NFL teams who operate without a general manager. Since Bears vice president/player personnel Bill Tobin resigned in August, club president Michael McCaskey has taken a more direct role in football decisions, along with vice president of operations Ted Phillips and pro advance scout Mike McCartney.

McCartney, the son of long-time Colorado football coach Bill McCartney, has assumed many of the responsibilities of Kenny Geiger, who retired at the end of last season.

"Kenny Geiger was a valuable guy to have. There is nobody who works harder, and he is a good person," said Graves.

Now, the club is looking for more help in pro evaluations.

"Actually, they will be sharing some of the responsibilities," said Graves. "We are going to hire a guy who has sufficient experience in the league. You can look for us to hire a guy who has probably been in the league 10 to 15 years. A guy that we know knows a lot of the players out there and who knows what it takes to play in this league.

"The guy we put on staff, I think we will feel real comfortable with his opinions. Mike (McCartney) will still be involved, but the guy that we hire will be leaning on him heavily in terms of his opinions.

"Mike is doing a heck of a job in terms of learning and he does a lot of other things for us," said Graves. "When I am out on the road, he keeps up with the waiver wire and all the transactions and things like that. He makes evaluations for our coaching staff in terms of doing the advance scouting. That has been very valuable. He will more than likely continue to do that type of thing. But the new guy will be able to come in here and concentrate on watching a lot of film and tracking guys with, say, three to seven or eight years experience in the league. And he is really going to be our expert in terms of the pro evaluations."

Although the Bears are scouting a new scout, they don't plan to make a decision soon.

"In all likelihood, we probably won't have the new guy in place until this summer. That is because most scouts are under contract through the college draft," said Graves. "The guy that you would really like to have, if he is valuable, is not going to be out on the street right now."

The Bears' scouting staff now includes Jeff Shiver, Gary Smith, Bobby Riggle and Charlie Mackey. Long-time Bears scout Jim Parmer has come out of retirement.

"Jim Parmer is doing some scouting for us now. We call it a part-time schedule. But he may not think so," said Graves. "He covered about 25 schools for us this fall. Our regular scouts cover somewhere around 40 or 45, maybe even as many as 50 during the course of the fall. But Jim was going out seeing the top people. That enabled us to get a second and third opinion during the season. In past years, we had to wait until after the season and get our other scouts involved to cross-check. I think the exposure is better during the season when you can actually get out on the campus and see the guys practicing and watch the tapes."

Fred Mitchell covers the Bears for the Chicago Tribune.

Craig Heyward was one of four NFL free agents signed by the Bears this past offseason. They will likely be more active in that area this offseason. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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Back to the Drawing Board

By John Delcos
Bear Report Correspondent

It came across as a small line of type in the TRANSACTIONS segment: TAMPA BAY: Released RB Gary Anderson.

Small words, but it spoke volumes — the Bucs are starting from scratch once again.

Anderson never cashed his potential check in Tampa Bay, and with the Bucs again floundering, the time was right to cut the budget and lay the foundation for the future.

Actually, Anderson's departure was simply another domino which began with the departure of quarterback Vinny Testaverde and continued with the waiving of Steve DeBerg.

The Cleveland Browns hope Testaverde could return from a shoulder injury shortly to take their season off life-support. The Miami Dolphins hope DeBerg can be another Earl Morrall; a backup who will take them to a Super Bowl.

Meanwhile, the Bucs have leased their future to Craig Erickson, and the returns have been painfully positive. Coach Sam Wyche likes Erickson's potential, but still hasn't ruled out taking a quarterback in the first round of the draft.

From his perspective, Erickson won't say beating Detroit and Minnesota, and hanging tough last week in Green Bay, will guarantee his future.

"You have to prove yourself constantly," said Erickson. "More than ever in the NFL, there are no guarantees. You want to make a home for yourself, but football is a week-to-week thing with a constant urgency to win.

"I'm getting playing time, and that speeds up the process. The coaches have spent hours and hours of extra time working with me, so I'm getting my chance. That's all anyone can ask — to get their chance."

On Sunday, the Chicago Bears will face a quarterback with growing confidence and a team with nothing to lose, which is always a scary combination this late in the season.

WHEN THE BUCS HAVE THE BALL

The book on Erickson — Tampa Bay's 18th starting quarterback in its 18-year history — is he's a leader who's accurate on the short and medium-range passes, and moves well within the pocket which is essential considering the Bucs porous offensive line.

Running back Reggie Cobb is back, but he's not 100 percent, and even when he was, he wasn't productive enough to build an offense around. He is only averaging 3.1 yards a carry, which means, if the Bucs gave him the ball on every down, they would go three-and-out.

Gone is Anderson, so the Bucs will try to establish their ground game with Vince Workman.

The Bucs are averaging only 254 yards a game, with 73 of them on the ground. They are also converting only 31 percent of their third-down opportunities and averaging two fumbles a game, all of which means extra pressure on the defense.

In a 47-17 win over the Bucs Sept. 26, rookie linebacker Myron Baker recovered two fumbles and returned one for a TD. The Bucs committed seven turnovers in that game. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

How they match-up

Offense	Overall	Rush	Pass
Bears	27	13	28
Bucs	26	28	21
Defense			
Bears	5	17	2
Bucs	24	24	18

WHEN THE BEARS HAVE THE BALL

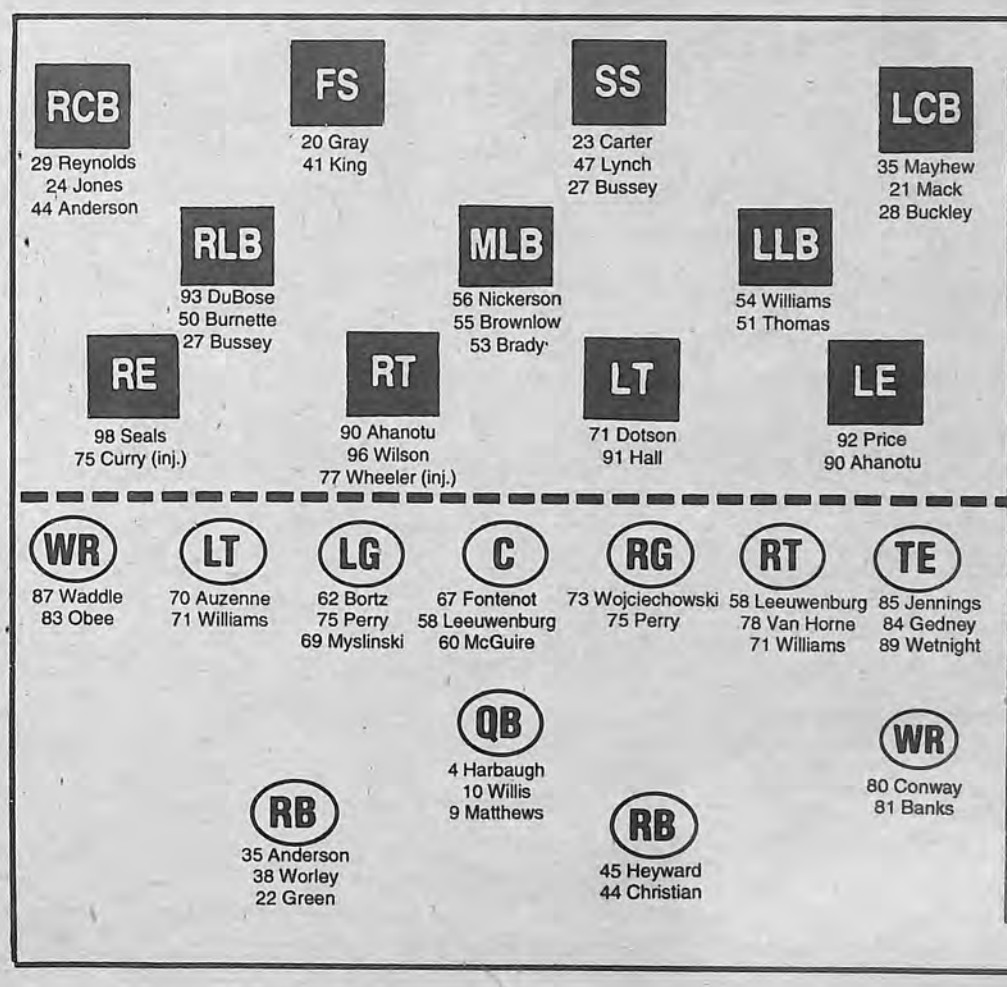
Tampa Bay is giving up 25 points, 341.6 yards, including 134.5 rushing yards, per game. Only twice this year have they allowed less than 20 points in a game, and they lost both times.

Predictably, the Bears will attempt to set up the pass with the run, which most teams obviously have been able to accomplish this season.

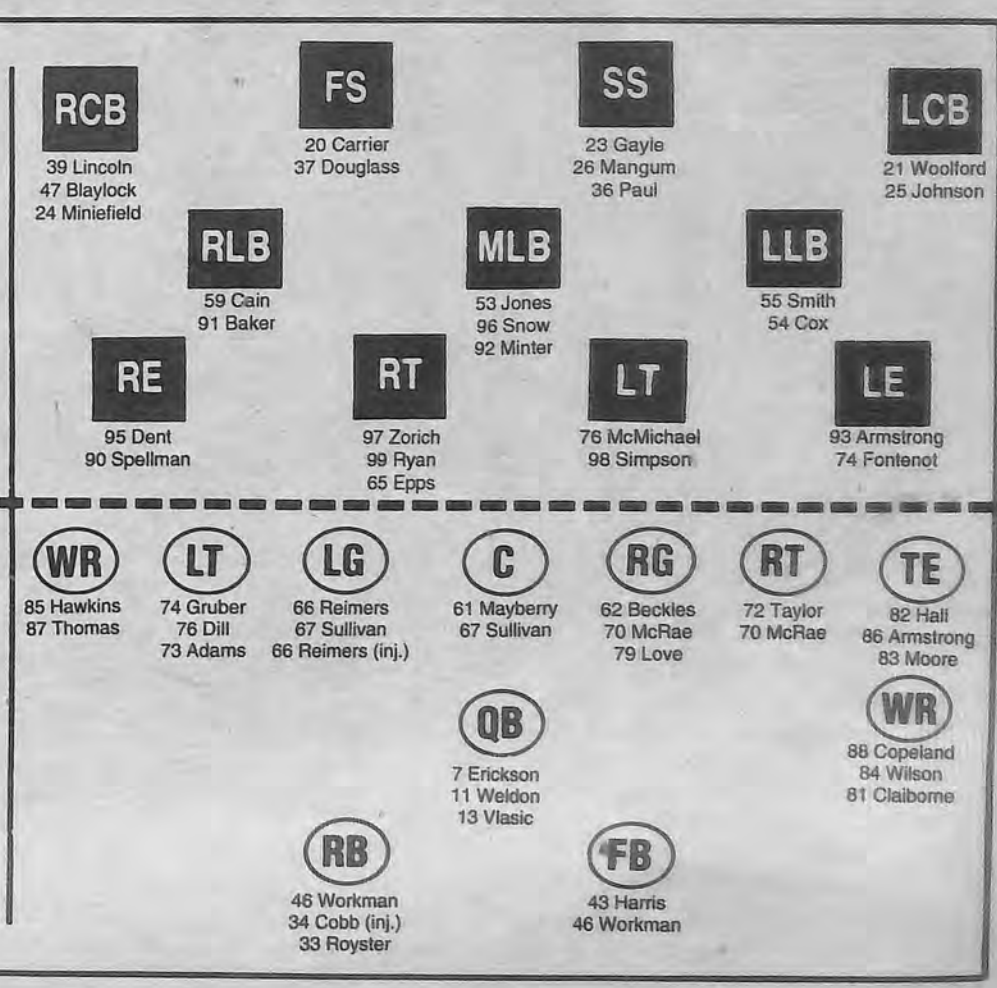
HOW TO BEAT THE BUCS

Don't underestimate them at home. Minnesota and Detroit both did and got routed. The Bucs do bring it up a notch within the division, and although their record indicates it, they aren't patsies. ... Chicago would like to pound away with Neal Anderson and Tim Worley, then open up the offense for Jim Harbaugh. ... Without a significant running game, the Bucs will try to move the ball with a short passing game. Chicago's linebackers will be active in coverage.

WHEN THE BEARS HAVE THE BALL



WHEN THE BUCS HAVE THE BALL



Facts and Figures

Kickoff: Noon Chicago time, Sunday, Dec. 12.
Site: Tampa Stadium, Tampa, Florida.
Capacity: 74,301
Playing surface: Natural grass
Last meeting: Bears won 47-17 at Chicago on September 26, 1993.
Series history: Bears lead series 24-7 and have won six of past seven. Chicago won 12 straight from 1983-1988.
Radio-TV coverage: Game will be televised regionally by CBS. It will also be carried live by WGN Radio and the Bears Radio Network with announcers Wayne Larrivee, Gary Fencik, Dick Butkus and Hub Arkush.

Sunday's game figures to include at least a few collisions between Bears safety Mark Carrier and Bucs running back Reggie Cobb.

Buccaneer Basics

Current Bucs QB Craig Erickson was 13 years old the last time Tampa Bay finished with a winning record.

The Bucs have not appeared on Monday Night Football since a 12-9 overtime loss to the Packers on Dec. 12, 1983, the longest such drought in the NFL.

The coldest game in Tampa Bay history was a 27-14 loss to the Bears at Soldier Field on Dec. 23, 1990. The temperature in Chicago at kickoff that day was 11 degrees.

Chicago Bears

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age*	Yr.	College
4	Jim Harbaugh	QB	6-3	215	30	7	Michigan
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	190	30	9	Georgia
9	Shane Matthews	QB	6-3	192	23	R	Florida
10	Peter Tom Willis	QB	6-2	204	26	4	Florida State
17	Chris Gardocki	P/K	6-1	196	23	3	Clemson
20	Mark Carrier	S	6-1	192	25	4	USC
21	Donnell Woolford	CB	5-9	185	27	5	Clemson
22	Robert Green	RB	5-8	207	22	2	William & Mary
23	Shaun Gayle	S	5-11	202	31	10	Ohio State
24	Kevin Miniefield	CB	5-9	178	23	R	Arizona State
25	Keshon Johnson	CB	5-10	177	23	R	Arizona
26	John Mangum	S	5-10	178	26	4	Alabama
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	215	29	8	Florida
36	Markus Paul	S	6-2	200	27	5	Syracuse
37	Maurice Douglass	S	5-11	202	29	7	Kentucky
38	Tim Worley	RB	6-2	225	26	4	Georgia
39	Jeremy Lincoln	CB	5-10	184	24	2	Tennessee
44	Bob Christian	RB	5-10	225	26	1	Northwestern
45	Craig Heyward	FB	5-11	260	27	6	Pittsburgh
47	Anthony Blaylock	CB	5-10	185	28	6	Winston-Salem St.
53	Dante Jones	LB	6-1	238	28	6	Oklahoma
54	Ron Cox	LB	6-2	235	25	4	Fresno State
55	Vinson Smith	LB	6-2	236	28	7	East Carolina
58	Jay Leeuwenburg	OL	6-2	290	24	2	Colorado
59	Joe Cain	LB	6-1	233	28	5	Oregon Tech
60	Gene McGuire	C	6-2	284	23	2	Notre Dame
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	282	32	11	Iowa
65	Tory Epps	DT	6-1	280	26	4	Memphis State
67	Jerry Fontenot	G/C	6-3	287	27	5	Texas A & M
69	Tom Myslinski	G	6-2	295	25	2	Tennessee
70	Troy Auzenne	T	6-7	290	24	2	California
71	James Williams	T	6-7	335	25	3	Cheyney St. (PA)
73	John Wojciechowski	G/T	6-4	280	30	7	Michigan State
74	Albert Fontenot	DL	6-4	260	23	R	Baylor
75	Todd Perry	T	6-5	291	23	R	Kentucky
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	268	36	14	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	290	36	13	USC
80	Curtis Conway	WR	6-0	185	22	R	USC
81	Fred Banks	WR	5-10	185	31	8	Liberty
83	Terry Obee	WR	5-10	188	25	1	Oregon
84	Chris Gedney	TE	6-5	254	23	R	Syracuse
85	Keith Jennings	TE	6-4	260	27	4	Clemson
87	Tom Waddle	WR	6-0	185	26	4	Boston College
89	Ryan Wetnight	TE	6-2	225	22	R	Stanford
90	Alonzo Spellman	DE	6-4	282	22	2	Ohio State
91	Myron Baker	LB	6-1	221	22	R	Louisiana Tech
92	Barry Minter	LB	6-2	236	23	R	Tulsa
93	Trace Armstrong	DE	6-4	265	28	5	Florida
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	265	33	11	Tennessee State
96	Percy Snow	LB	6-2	250	25	4	Michigan State
97	Chris Zorich	DT	6-1	284	24	3	Notre Dame
98	Carl Simpson	DT	6-2	278	23	R	Florida State
99	Tim Ryan	DT	6-4	265	26	4	USC
Practice Squad							
30	Dewell Brewer	RB	5-8	203	23	R	Oklahoma
52	Jim Schwantz	LB	6-2	232	23	1	Purdue
63	Todd Burger	G	6-3	266	23	R	Penn State
88	Keenan McCardell	WR	6-1	175	23	1	UNLV
94	Frank Kmet	DL	6-3	289	23	1	Purdue
Injured Reserve (out for year)							
82	Wendell Davis	WR	5-11	188	27	6	LSU
88	Glen Kozlowski	WR	6-1	210	31	8	BYU

*Age as of Jan. 1, 1994

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
4	Dan Stryzinski	P	6-1	195	28	4	Indiana
5	Michael Husted	K	6-0	190	23	R	Virginia
7	Craig Erickson	QB	6-2	205	24	2	Miami (FL)
11	Casey Weldon	QB	6-0	200	24	2	Florida St.
13	Mark Vlasic	QB	6-3	205	29	5	Iowa
20	Jerry Gray	DB	6-0	195	30	9	Texas
21	Milton Mack	CB	5-11	195	28	7	Alcorn St.
23	Marty Carter	S	6-1	200	23	3	M. Tennessee St.
24	Roger Jones	CB	5-9	175	24	3	Tennesee St.
27	Barney Bussey	S	6-0	210	31	8	S. Carolina St.
28	Curtis Buckley	CB	6-0	185	22	R	East Texas St.
29	Ricky Reynolds	CB	5-11	190	28	7	Washington St.
33	Mazio Royster	RB	6-1	200	22	2	USC
34	Reggie Cobb	RB	6-0	215	25	4	Tennessee
35	Martin Mayhew	CB	5-8	175	27	6	Florida St.
41	Joe King	S	6-2	195	25	3	Oklahoma St.
43	Rudy Harris	FB	6-1	255	21	R	Clemson
44	Darren Anderson	CB	5-10	180	24	1	Toledo
46	Vince Workman	RB	5-10	205	25	5	Ohio St.
47	John Lynch	S	6-2	220	21	R	Stanford
50	Reggie Burnette	LB	6-2	245	24	2	Houston
51	Broderick Thomas	LB	6-4	250	26	5	Nebraska
53	Ed Brady	LB	6-2	235	31	10	Illinois
54	Jimmy Williams	LB	6-3	220	32	12	Nebraska
55	Darrick Brownlow	LB	6-0	240	22	3	Illinois
56	Hardy Nickerson	LB	6-2	230	27	7	California
61	Tony Mayberry	C	6-4	290	25	4	Wake Forest
62	Ian Beckles	OG	6-1	295	26	4	Indiana
66	Bruce Reimers	OG	6-7	300	32	10	Iowa
67	Mike Sullivan	OL	6-3	290	25	2	Miami (FL)
70	Charles McRae	OT	6-7	300	24	3	Tennessee
71	Santana Dotson	DL	6-5	270	23	2	Baylor
72	Rob Taylor	OT	6-6	290	32	8	Northwestern
73	Theo Adams	OL	6-4	300	27	2	Hawaii
74	Paul Gruber	OT	6-5	290	28	6	Wisconsin
75	Eric Curry	DE	6-5	270	23	R	Alabama
76	Scott Dill	OL	6-5	290	27	6	Memphis St.
77	Mark Wheeler	DL	6-2	280	23	2	Texas A&M
79	Sean Love	OL	6-3	290	25	R	Penn State
81	Robert Claiborne	WR	5-10	175	26	3	San Diego St.
82	Ron Hall	TE	6-4	245	29	7	Hawaii
83	Dave Moore	TE	6-2	245	24	1	Pittsburgh
84	Charles Wilson	WR	5-10	185	25	3	Memphis St.
85	Courtney Hawkins	WR	5-9	180	23	2	Michigan St.
86	Tyji Armstrong	TE	6-4	250	22	2	Mississippi
87	Lamar Thomas	WR	6-1	170	23	R	Miami (FL)
88	Horance Copeland	WR	6-2	195	22	R	Miami (FL)
90	Chidi Ahanotu	DL	6-2	280	22	R	California
91	Rhett Hall	DL	6-2	270	24	3	California
92	Shawn Price	DL	6-5	260	23	R	Pacific
93	Demetrius DuBose	LB	6-1	240	22	R	Notre Dame
96	Bernard Wilson	DL	6-2	295	23	1	Tennessee St.
98	Ray Seals	DE	6-3	280	28	6	None
Injured Reserve							
25	Tony Covington	S	5-11	195	25		Virginia
26	Rogerick Green	CB	5-10	185	23		Kansas St.
31	Darryl Pollard	CB	5-11	185	29		Weber St.
37	Anthony McDowell	FB	5-11	236	25		Texas Tech
64	Tim Ryan	OG	6-2	280	25		Notre Dame
78	Anthony Munoz	OT	6-6	285	35		USC
80	Lawrence Dawsey	WR	6-0	195	26		Florida St.
94	Rick Trumbull	OL	6-6	300	25		Missouri
Developmental Squad							
38	Butch Hadnot	RB	6-1	230	23		Texas
Developmental Squad Injured Reserve							
1	Tyree Davis	WR	5-9	165	23		Central Arkansas

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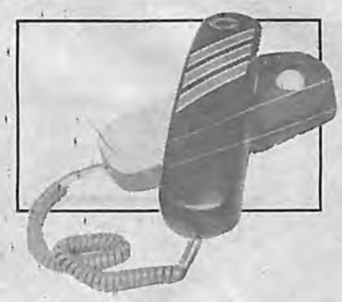
#3C — Stadium Blankets. Pro's choice 45"x72", 60% virgin wool, 40% acrylic. NFL carrying case. $39.95



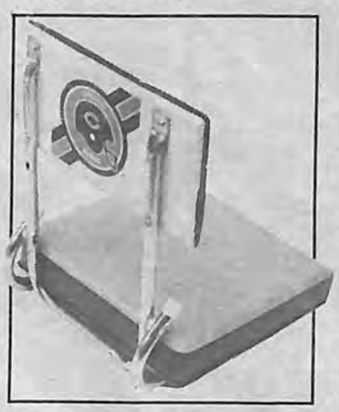
#4C — Team Fones™. Tone/pulse switch, wall or desk mount, big button, lighted keypad, redial, fully modular. $59.99

#5C — Helmet Phones. Made from actual playing helmets. $192.00

#7C — Pad & Pen Set. Show your team spirit with each message you write! $3.49

#10C — Nylon Bag w/Strap. Great for gym, books. Shoulder strap. 9"x18". $15.95

#12C — Sports Bottle. Store your keys, gum or anything else in the same container you use for your favorite drink. $3.99



#13C — Stadium Seat. 12"x12"x2" padded seat 6"x12"x½" padded back. $14.95

#14C — Gift Wrap. $3.99
#15C — Tie-it-Rite Ribbon. $2.98
Wrap all your special gifts with Chicago Bears wrapping paper. 30"x5' sheet. Tie-it-Rite Ribbon. 7/8" x 5 yds.

#27C — Canvas Bag w/Strap. Detachable shoulder strap. 11"x20". $24.95

#28C — Helmet Lights. Decorate the house or his year's Christmas tree. 50 light set. Helmet covers every 3rd light. $23.95

#29C — 16 oz. Stein. $3.95
#30C — 10 oz. Mug. $2.95
Double insulation keeps drinks at the perfect temperature. Top rack dishwasher safe!

#31C — Gridiron Switch Plate. Screws included. Fits all standard size switches. $12.95

#32C — Floor Pillows. Big 25"x25". $29.95

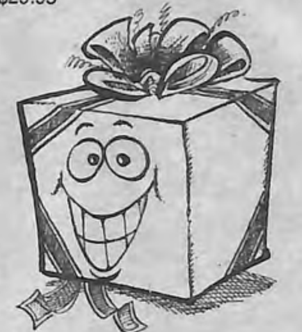
#33C — Terry Cloth Robes. Kimono style, thick and thirsty heavy-weight cotton terry cloth. White robes with embroidered helmet logo. One size fits all. $55.95

#38C — Ceramic Helmet. Use as a planter, 16 oz. beverage container. $11.95

#39C — Belt Buckle. Made of old world pewter, brass plated. $12.95

#40C — Sunglasses. Produced utilizing ContraVision™, an amazing new see-through technology. $7.95

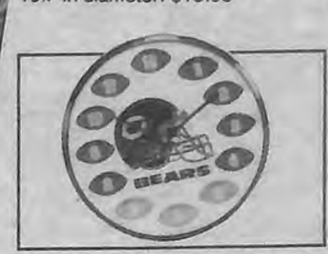
#43C — Sport Cooler. 11½" diameter and 13½" high. Will hold approximately 24 12 oz. cans. $29.95



#44C — Grill. The grill has a removable internal charcoal bucket. 11½" diameter and 10½" high. Convenient carrying handle. $24.95

#45C — Black Ceramic Mug. 11 oz. $12.49
#46C — Tankard. 15 oz. $14.99
#47C — Cocktail Glass. 11 oz. $9.99
Hand painted enamel team colors enhance fine pewter emblem.

#52C — Wastebasket. 19¼" high, 10¼" in diameter. $13.95



#53C — Round Clocks. All plastic construction, high quality quartz movement with sweep second hand. Height 12¾" diameter. $19.95

#54C — Thermometers. All plastic construction, good for indoor and outdoor use. Height 12¾" diameter. $19.95

#56C — Snow Shovel. The shovel blade is 16½" wide by 14" high and constructed of 20 gauge lithographed steel to withstand the heaviest of snows. $19.95

#57C — Bean Bags. Heavy-duty outer fabric styled with three shiny vinyl panels and one natural canvas panel screened with Bears logo. Size — large. $34.95

#60C — Blankets. Big 60"x80". Soft fur-like touch, team logo/colors 90% acrylic, 10% polyester. $47.95

#61C — Chip 'N' Dip Bowl. Football-shaped serving bowl. Big, 11¾"x18½". $5.99

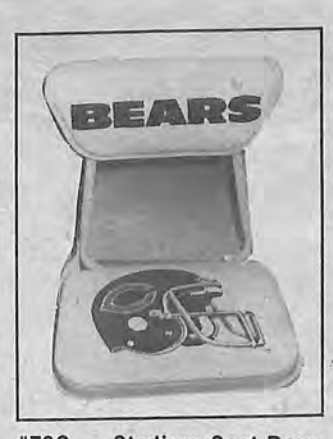
#62C — Sport Specs™. Made of 100% Htyrel frames by DuPont. All lenses offer 400 UV protection. $9.95

#64C — Golf Club Covers. Fully padded for extra club protection and hand washable. $29.95

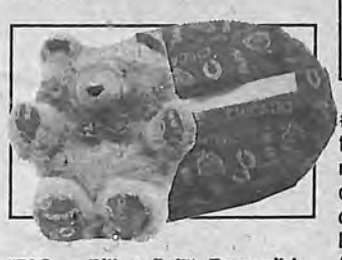
#65C — Collector Belt Buckle. Edition numbered pewter, detailed in high gloss enamel team colors. $18.95

#66C — Key Ring. Pewter helmet display detailed in high gloss enamel or #66CA. $6.95

#71C — Superpennant. Style, helmet logo white. 20"x49", cleanable polyvinyl. #71CA, style Bear Blue. $19.95



#72C — Stadium Seat•Boxx Seats™. Top of the line, heavy gauge steel for solid support, two spring loaded clips attach to bleacher, upholstered with heavy duty vinyl over polyurethane foam. $24.95



#73C — Pillow Pal™ Reversible Teddy Bear Football. It's a pillow, it's a football and best of all a teddy Bears Bear. $24.95

#74C — Body Sport•Temporary Tattoos. 1 large and 1 small transfer, applies in seconds, lasts for days, easy to remove, nontoxic, safe and fun. Bears team colors. $4.49

#75C — Color-A-Pennant. The souvenir pennant you color yourself! Four nontoxic crayons. TAZ/Chicago Bears design. $3.99

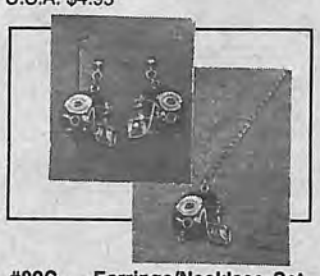
#76C — Color-A-Mug. Includes: one dishwasher safe (top rack) mug, four nontoxic crayons, three design inserts to color! TAZ/Chicago Bears designs, kids can personalize their own Bears mug. $6.49

#77C — Color-Tees. 50% cotton/50% polyester. American made. Seven colorsticks, color directly onto the shirt, iron to set colors permanently. TAZ/Chicago Bears design. Youth sizes: #77C (10-12M), #77CA (14-16L). $9.95

#79C — Yo-Yos. Chicago Bears helmet logo. $3.50

#80C — Helmet Collector Pin. 3 dimensional, hand painted, German silver plated. Made in the U.S.A. $4.95

#81C — Bears Logo Collector Pin. 3 dimensional, hand painted, German silver plated, made in the U.S.A. $4.95



#82C — Earrings/Necklace Set. Post drop earrings on surgical steel posts. 3 dimensional, hand painted helmet designs. German silver plated, 20" necklace chains are solid brass with silver rhodium finish, made in U.S.A. $19.95

#84C — Football Phone. Features last number redial, a mute button, a tone/pulse switch and comes with 28 interchangeable team logos. $69.99

#85C — Team Fan Pak. Includes 12"x30" Pennant, 3"x12" bumper sticker, 3 1/2" button. $4.95

#86C — Zubas® Team Cap. Slash bill, logo. $14.95

#87C — License Plate Frame. Team colors, chrome(metal). $6.95

#88C — Wallet (Tri-fold). Black leather with team color embroidered logo. $24.95

#89C — Checkbook Cover. Black leather with team color embroidered logo. $24.95

#90C — Night Light. Team colors. $3.99

#91C — Playing Cards. Team colors. $2.95

#92C — Pak Chest™ Sport Cooler. *Perfect for tailgating (4* separate compartments). Holds 24 cans and full bag of ice, swing away table top turns into padded seat, shoulder strap. $59.95

#93C — 2 oz. Shot Glass. $2.99

#94C — 14 oz. Executive Drink Glasses. 2 pc. gift set, quality glassware, team colors, helmet logo. $13.99

#95C — 13 oz. Coffee Mug. Gold band. Quality ceramic, team logo. $6.75

#96C — Super Bowl XX Championship Stein. Super season and scores recorded on back. 24 oz. quality ceramic, gold banded. $16.99

#97C — NFL Playoff® Chicago Bears Game. Everything that can happen in a real football game happens in NFL Playoff®! Includes: a game board, play field, 2 team helmets (playing pieces), play cards, penalty cards, quarter cards, football, and score pad. For ages 7 to adult. $24.95

#98C — Jim Harbaugh • QB "Getting The Job Done." 11"x14" framed color lithograph, created from an original painting by Vince Charimonte of Kelly Russell Studios. John Biever/Sports Illustrated, collector's number. $24.95

#99C — Mike Singletary • LB "Intense." 11"x14" framed color lithograph, created from an original painting by Marci Rule of Kelly Russell Studios. John Biever/Sports Illustrated, collector's number. $24.95

#100C — Thermal Stein. Embroidered team patch, sealed between thermal double walls. Shatter proof, dishwasher and microwave safe. Black inner wall/clear outerwall. 16 oz. $10.95.

#101C — Thermal 2 Pc. Stein Set. Embroidered team patch sealed between thermal double walls. Shatter proof, dishwasher and microwave safe. Clear, 16 oz. $19.95

#102C — Thermal Tumbler. Embroidered team patch, sealed between double walls. Shatter proof, dishwasher and microwave safe. Black inner wall/clear outer wall, 16 oz. $7.95

#103C — 4 Pc. Tumbler Set. Embroidered team patch sealed between thermal double walls. Shatter proof, dishwasher and microwave safe. Clear, 16 oz. $29.95

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SEASON STATISTICS

SCORING SUMMARY

Bears	20	76	39	36	171
Opponents	32	53	19	43	147

	Bears	Opp.
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	160	186
By Rushing	70	69
By Passing	79	108
By Penalty	11	9
3RD DOWN EFFICIENCY		
Made	48	57
Attempted	148	152
Percent Made	32.4%	37.5%
4TH DOWN EFFICIENCY		
Made	2	3
Attempted	9	9
Percent Made	22.2%	33.3%
TOTAL NET YARDS	2693	3037
Total Off. Plays	648	698
Av. Gain Per Play	4.2	4.4
NET YARDS RUSHING	1239	1259
Total Rushing Plays	352	313
Ave. Per Game	112.6	114.5
NET YARDS PASSING	1454	1778
Sacks/Yards Lost	37/186	39/248
Gross Yds. Passing	1640	2026
Attempts	259	346
Completions	157	203
Interceptions	11	13
PUNTS	58	61
Average	36.5	37.2

RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Anderson	182	595	3.3	45	3
Harbaugh	49	245	5.0	25	3
Heyward	61	183	3.0	11	0
Worley (Bears only)	30	124	4.1	25t	1
Conway	5	44	8.8	18	0
Christian	8	19	2.4	12	0
Green	10	16	1.6	10	0
Lewis	7	13	1.9	3	0
TEAM	352	1239	3.5	45	7
OPPONENTS	313	1259	4.0	26t	6

PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	Sack	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Harbaugh	254	156	1611	36	185	7	42t	10
Gardocki	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Willis	2	1	29	1	1	0	29	1
Anderson	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEAM	259	157	1640	37	186	7	42t	11
OPPONENTS	346	203	2026	39	248	7	67	13

This season Neal Anderson has climbed into second place in Bears history in rushes, rushing yards and rushing TDs. He trails Walter Payton in all three categories.

Dante Jones, scooping up this fumble and returning it for a touchdown Sunday against the Packers, leads the Bears in tackles and is tied for the team lead in interceptions with Mark Carrier. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Waddle	36	465	38	1
Anderson	28	147	35	0
Conway	12	163	38t	2
Davis	12	132	17	0
Obee	11	160	42t	3
Heyward	10	99	20	0
Gedney	9	96	24	0
Christian	8	100	36	0
Jennings	8	87	17	0
Whitaker	6	53	18	0
Wetnight	5	60	25t	1
Green	5	22	6	0
Lewis	4	26	18	0
Worley	1	10	10	0
Banks	1	19	19	0
Harbaugh	1	1	1	0
TEAM	157	1640	42t	7
OPPONENTS	203	2026	67	7

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Carrier	3	60	22	0
Jones	3	46	22	0
Lincoln	2	29	21	0
Dent	1	24	24	0
Woolford	1	18	18	0
Blaylock	1	0	0	0
Mangum	1	0	0	0
McMichael	1	0	0	0
TEAM	13	177	24	0
OPPONENTS	11	80	25	1

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Gardocki	58	2206	36.5	1	21	56
TEAM	58	2206	36.5	1	21	56
OPPONENTS	61	2562	42.0	3	18	75

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Obee	26	17	230	28	0
TEAM	26	17	230	28	0
OPPONENTS	15	31	71	12	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Ave.	LG	TD
Conway	10	221	22.1	55	0
Obee	8	138	17.3	34	0
Green	5	78	15.6	30	0
Worley	1	24	24.0	24	0
Heyward	1	12	12.0	12	0
Mangum	1	0	0.0	0	0
TEAM	26	473	18.2	55	0
OPPONENTS	37	602	16.3	35	0

	Defensive								
	T	S	A	FF	FR	PD	SK	YD	INT
Dent	46	34	12	1	0	2	10.5	82	1
*Perry	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
McMichael	47	28	19	0	1	3	6	33	1
Armstrong	35	22	13	3	3	2	9.5	54	0
Spellman	23	13	10	0	0	0	2.5	14	0
Zorich	81	45	36	1	2	1	6	39	0
A. Fontenot	3	1	2	1	0	0	1	6	0
Simpson	4	2	2	0	0	0	0.5	5	0
Ryan	14	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jones	128	79	49	0	1	9	1	2	3
Cox	24	18	6	2	0	0	2	14	0
Cain	68	40	28	1	0	1	0	0	0
*Morrissey	7	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baker	18	8	10	0	2	0	0	0	0
V. Smith	46	28	18	0	0	3	0	0	0
Minter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snow	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woolford	76	65	11	0	0	18	0	0	1
Gayle	78	46	32	1	0	1	0	0	0
Carrier	54	27	27	1	0	6	0	0	3
Lincoln	25	17	8	0	0	4	0	0	2
Blaylock	24	19	5	0	0	4	0	0	1
Douglass	49	31	18	0	0	4	0	0	0
Johnson	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paul	6	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mangum	32	16	16	0	0	2	0	0	1
Miniefield	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

*No longer with the team.

CENTRAL ISSUES

By John Delcos

Stats don't show Gardocki's value

Chicago Bears

Statistics are misleading, especially when it comes to evaluating punter Chris Gardocki, whose third-quarter punt-on-the-run prevented a safety — and possibly a Detroit touchdown. It was the most important play in the Bears' Thanksgiving victory over the Lions.

The punt went all of four yards — which accounted for his 32.6-yard average in that game — and Bears special teams coach Danny Abramowicz said: "That was the best punt I've ever seen in my life. It's not like a shock. He's been doing things all year for us."

Gardocki's gross and net punting averages are below the NFC average, but more importantly, the Bears lead the league with a 4.2-yard return average and Gardocki has a league-high 21 punts inside the 20 with only one touchback.

INJURIES: TE Chris Gedney (heel), S John Mangum (hamstring), CB Tony Blaylock (hand), RB Bob Christian (mononucleosis).

SCOUTING REPORT: At Tampa Bay. The Bears can't afford a letdown, and must remember the Bucs have beaten Atlanta, Minnesota and Detroit already this year. ... It's no secret the Bears have won when they established the run and didn't turn over the ball. ... Chicago set a record with three straight road wins within 12 days.

SCHEDULE: NY Giants (L, 26-20), at Minnesota (L, 10-7), Tampa Bay (W, 47-17), Atlanta (W, 6-0), at Philadelphia (W, 17-6), Minnesota (Mon, L, 19-12), at Green Bay (L, 17-3), LA Raiders (L, 16-14), at San Diego (W, 16-13), at Kansas City (W, 19-17), at Detroit (Thanks) (W, 10-6), Green Bay, at Tampa Bay, Denver (Sat), Detroit, at LA Rams.

Detroit Lions

Not too long ago the Lions were 7-2 and seemingly in control of the NFC Central. Now, after losses to the Packers and Bears — in the latter they lost RB Barry Sanders with a knee injury for a few weeks — all of a sudden the playoffs are in jeopardy.

The Lions were encouraged with the news the swelling in Sanders' left knee had subsided considerably, and they are now holding out on the hope he could return for the last two games of the season.

The running game now belongs to Derrick Moore and former Buc Gary Anderson, who was signed last week.

Meanwhile, WRs Herman Moore and Brett Perriman are now complaining about the lack of opportunities, most recently against Chicago on Thanksgiving.

"(Bears CB Donnell Woolford) gave me everything but the deep routes," said Moore. "We just didn't take advantage of them. We could have thrown on them all day."

INJURIES: S Bennie Blades (ankle), WR Mel Gray (ankle), DE Dan Owens (knee).

SCOUTING REPORT: At Phoenix. The Cardinals are playing for coach Joe Bugel's job and won't be a pushover. The Cardinals have lost seven games by a touchdown or less. ... Detroit's most important question: Is there offense after Sanders? ... Phoenix WRs Ricky Proehl and Gary Clark have been hot.

SCHEDULE: Atlanta (W, 30-13), at New England (W, 19-16 OT), at New Orleans (L, 14-3), Phoenix (W, 26-20), at Tampa Bay (L, 27-10), Seattle (W, 30-10), at LA Rams (W, 16-13), at Minnesota (W, 30-27), Tampa Bay (W, 23-0), Green Bay (at Mil) (L, 26-17), Chicago (Thanks) (L, 10-6), Minnesota, at Phoenix, San Francisco, at Chicago, Green Bay.

Green Bay Packers

Green Bay's defense has continued to improve, advancing to eighth in the league. The Packers are 12th versus the run and eight against the pass.

INJURIES: Brett Favre (thigh), TE Jackie Harris (knee), S Tim Hauck (hamstring), LB Jim Morrissey (hamstring).

SCOUTING REPORT: At San Diego. It might be too late for the Chargers, who are playing well after a slow start. ... QB Stan Humphries is back, and with him, so is the Charger offense. ... Favre is playing with a bruised thigh. ... The Packers have allowed an average of 14 points a game over the past six games. ... DE Reggie White and LB Bryce Paup have combined for over 20 sacks.

SCHEDULE: LA Rams at Mil (W, 36-6), Philadelphia (L, 20-17), at Minnesota (L, 15-13), at Dallas (L, 36-14), Denver (W, 30-27), at Tampa Bay (W, 37-14), Chicago (W, 17-3), at Kansas City (Mon) (L, 23-16), at New Orleans (W, 19-16), Detroit (at Mil) (W, 26-17), Tampa Bay (W, 13-10), at Chicago, at San Diego, Minnesota (at Mil), LA Raiders, at Detroit.

Minnesota Vikings

Quarterback Sean Salisbury posted decent numbers subbing for the injured Jim McMahon, most notably back-to-back 300-yard passing games, but it was expected McMahon would return to the lineup for Sunday's game in Detroit.

Not impressive — and it's not all Salisbury's fault — is Minnesota's 1-4 record since McMahon went down with a dislocated shoulder Oct. 31. Since then, Minnesota's only victory was a shocking come-from-behind win in Denver, of all places.

While McMahon wasn't setting any records when he was healthy, it must be remembered that most of the Vikings' offensive problems can be traced to coach Dennis Green's changing of offensive coordinators less than a month into the season and the defections of Gary Zimmerman, Kirk Lowdermilk and Brian Habib from the line.

INJURIES: S Todd Scott (ribs), WR Anthony Carter (hand), TE Steve Jordan (knee), CB Anthony Parker (ankle).

SCOUTING REPORT: Dallas. The Cowboys will have recovered from Leon Lett by now. ... QB Troy Aikman is back, as is RB Emmitt Smith. ... The Vikings haven't established a ground game all season. ... WR Michael Irvin is a game-breaker.

SCHEDULE: At LA Raiders (L, 24-7), Chicago (W, 10-7), Green Bay (W, 15-13), at San Francisco (L, 38-19), Tampa Bay, at Chicago (Mon, W, 19-12), Detroit (L, 30-27), San Diego (L, 30-17), at Denver (W, 26-23), at Tampa Bay (L, 23-10), New Orleans (L, 17-14), at Detroit, Dallas, Green Bay (at Mil), Kansas City, at Washington.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

With owner Hugh Culverhouse's failing health, there is growing speculation the Bucs will be sold, and already spurned Baltimore is being mentioned as a possibility.

However, after the shabby way in which the NFL treated Baltimore during the expansion process, Baltimore is maintaining the posture that it won't talk with teams planning to move until that team is firmly committed to leaving its present city.

With RB Reggie Cobb still hurting and the Bucs thin at the position, one must assume Tampa Bay's thinking in releasing RB Gary Anderson was purely financial.

INJURIES: Curry (ankle), G Bruce Reimers (ankle), Cobb (knee), NT Mark Wheeler (knee).

SCOUTING REPORT: Chicago. (See above).

SCHEDULE: Kansas City (L, 27-3), at NY Giants (L, 27-7), at Chicago (L, 47-17), Detroit (W, 27-10), at Minnesota (L, 15-0), Green Bay (L, 37-14), at Atlanta (W, 31-24), at Detroit (L, 23-0), San Francisco (L, 45-21), Minnesota (W, 23-10), at Green Bay (L, 13-10), Washington, Chicago, at LA Raiders, at Denver, San Diego.

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1993 NFL SCHEDULE

(Central Time)

Week 1

Sunday, Sept. 5
N.Y. Giants 26, **BEARS** 20
Detroit 30, Atlanta 13
Cleveland 27, Cincinnati 14
Denver 26, N.Y. Jets 20
Kansas City 27, Tampa Bay 3
Miami 24, Indianapolis 20
Buffalo 38, New England 14
Philadelphia 23, Phoenix 17
San Francisco 24, Pittsburgh 13
L.A. Raiders 24, Minnesota 7
San Diego 18, Seattle 12
New Orleans 33, Houston 21
Monday, Sept. 6
Washington 35, Dallas 16

Week 2

Sunday, Sept. 12
Minnesota 10, **BEARS** 7
N.Y. Giants 27, Tampa Bay 7
Indianapolis 9, Cincinnati 6
Houston 30, Kansas City 0
New Orleans 34, Atlanta 31
Philadelphia 20, Green Bay 17
Phoenix 17, Washington 10
Buffalo 13, Dallas 10
N.Y. Jets 24, Miami 14
L.A. Rams 27, Pittsburgh 0
Denver 34, San Diego 17
L.A. Raiders 17, Seattle 13
Monday, Sept. 13
Cleveland 23, San Francisco 13

Week 3

BYE: AFC East except New England, NFC Central except Detroit
Sunday, Sept. 19
Pittsburgh 34, Cincinnati 7
New Orleans 14, Detroit 3
N.Y. Giants 20, L.A. Rams 10
Seattle 17, New England 14
Philadelphia 34, Washington 31
San Francisco 37, Atlanta 30
Cleveland 19, L.A. Raiders 16
San Diego 18, Houston 17
Dallas 17, Phoenix 10
Monday, Sept. 20
Kansas City 15, Denver 7

Week 4

BYE: AFC West except Seattle, NFC East except Phoenix
Sunday, Sept. 26
BEARS 47, Tampa Bay 17
Indianapolis 23, Cleveland 10
Minnesota 15, Green Bay 13
L.A. Rams 28, Houston 13
Miami 22, Buffalo 13
Detroit 26, Phoenix 20
New Orleans 16, San Francisco 13
Seattle 19, Cincinnati 10
N.Y. Jets 45, New England 7

Monday, Sept. 27
Pittsburgh 45, Atlanta 17

Week 5

BYE: AFC Central, New England, Phoenix
Sunday, Oct. 3
BEARS 6, Atlanta 0
Dallas 36, Green Bay 14
Tampa Bay 27, Detroit 10
Kansas City 24, L.A. Raiders 9
Denver 35, Indianapolis 13
San Francisco 38, Minnesota 19
New Orleans 37, L.A. Rams 6
Philadelphia 35, N.Y. Jets 30
Seattle 31, San Diego 14
Buffalo 17, N.Y. Giants 14
Monday, Oct. 4
Miami 17, Washington 10

Week 6

BYE: NFC West, Detroit, Seattle
Sunday, Oct. 10
BEARS 17, Philadelphia 6
Green Bay 30, Denver 27
Kansas City 17, Cincinnati 15
Dallas 27, Indianapolis 3
Miami 24, Cleveland 14
N.Y. Giants 41, Washington 7
Minnesota 15, Tampa Bay 0
Pittsburgh 16, San Diego 3
New England 23, Phoenix 21
L.A. Raiders 24, N.Y. Jets 20
Monday, Oct. 11
Buffalo 35, Houston 7

Bears 1993 Schedule

PRESEASON

Date	Opponent	Time*	Network
Sun., Aug. 8	at Philadelphia Eagles	9-13	TNT
Sat., Aug. 14	PHOENIX CARDINALS	10-11	WMAQ
Mon., Aug. 23	at New Orleans Saints	14-20	ABC
Fri., Aug. 27	DALLAS COWBOYS	23-21	WMAQ

REGULAR SEASON

Sun., Sept. 5	NEW YORK GIANTS	20-26	CBS
Sun., Sept. 12	at Minnesota Vikings	7-10	CBS
Sun., Sept. 19	Bye Week		
Sun., Sept. 26	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	47-17	CBS
Sun., Oct. 3	ATLANTA FALCONS	6-0	CBS
Sun., Oct. 10	at Philadelphia Eagles	17-6	CBS
Sun., Oct. 17	Bye Week		
Mon., Oct. 25	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	12-19	ABC
Sun., Oct. 31	at Green Bay Packers	3-17	CBS
Sun., Nov. 7	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	14-16	NBC
Sun., Nov. 14	at San Diego Chargers	16-13	ESPN
Sun., Nov. 21	at Kansas City Chiefs	19-17	CBS
Thurs., Nov. 25	at Detroit Lions	10-6	CBS
Sun., Dec. 5	GREEN BAY PACKERS	30-17	CBS
Sun., Dec. 12	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Noon	CBS
Sat., Dec. 18	DENVER BRONCOS	11:30 a.m.	NBC
Sun., Dec. 26	DETROIT LIONS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Jan. 2, 1994	at Los Angeles Rams	3:00 p.m.	CBS

*Chicago time
HOME TEAM IN CAPS

Week 7

BYE: AFC East except New England, NFC Central except Detroit
Thursday, Oct. 14
Atlanta 30, L.A. Rams 24
Sunday, Oct. 17
Cleveland 28, Cincinnati 17
Houston 28, New England 14
Pittsburgh 37, New Orleans 14
N.Y. Giants 21, Philadelphia 10
Detroit 30, Seattle 10
Phoenix 36, Washington 6
Kansas City 17, San Diego 14
Dallas 26, San Francisco 17
Monday, Oct. 18
L.A. Raiders 23, Denver 20

Week 8

BYE: AFC West except Seattle, NFC East except Phoenix
Sunday, Oct. 24
Green Bay 37, Tampa Bay 14
Atlants 26, New Orleans 15
Buffalo 19, N.Y. Jets 10
Houston 28, Cincinnati 12
Cleveland 28, Pittsburgh 23
Detroit 16, L.A. Rams 13
Seattle 10, New England 9
San Francisco 28, Phoenix 14
Miami 41, Indianapolis 27
Monday, Oct. 25
Minnesota 19, **BEARS** 12

Week 9

BYE: AFC Central
Sunday, Oct. 31
Green Bay 17, **BEARS** 3
Miami 30, Kansas City 10
Indianapolis 9, New England 6
Tampa Bay 31, Atlanta 24
N.Y. Jets 10, N.Y. Giants 6
Dallas 23, Philadelphia 10
New Orleans 20, Phoenix 17
San Diego 30, L.A. Raiders 23
San Francisco 40, L.A. Rams 17
Denver 28, Seattle 17
Detroit 30, Minnesota 27
Monday, Nov. 1
Buffalo 24, Washington 10

Week 10

BYE: NFC West
Sunday, Nov. 7
L.A. Raiders 16, **BEARS** 14
Denver 29, Cleveland 14
Buffalo 13, New England 10 (OT)
Dallas 31, N.Y. Giants 9
Pittsburgh 24, Cincinnati 16
San Diego 30, Minnesota 17
Houston 24, Seattle 14
Detroit 23, Tampa Bay 0
N.Y. Jets 27, Miami 10
Phoenix 16, Philadelphia 3
Washington 30, Indianapolis 24
Monday, Nov. 8
Kansas City 23, Green Bay 16

Week 11

BYE: Detroit, New England
Sunday, Nov. 14
BEARS 16, San Diego 13
Green Bay 19, New Orleans 17
Houston 38, Cincinnati 3
San Francisco 45, Tampa Bay 21
Miami 19, Philadelphia 14
N.Y. Giants 20, Washington 6
Dallas 20, Phoenix 15
Kansas City 31, L.A. Raiders 20
Atlanta 13, L.A. Rams 0
Seattle 22, Cleveland 5
Minnesota 26, Denver 23
N.Y. Jets 31, Indianapolis 17
Monday, Nov. 15
Pittsburgh 23, Buffalo 0

Week 12

BYE: Phoenix, Seattle
Sunday, Nov. 21
BEARS 19, Kansas City 17
Green Bay 26, Detroit 17
N.Y. Jets 17, Cincinnati 12
Atlanta 27, Dallas 14
Houston 27, Cleveland 20
Buffalo 23, Indianapolis 9
Miami 17, New England 13
N.Y. Giants 7, Philadelphia 3
L.A. Raiders 12, San Diego 7
Denver 37, Pittsburgh 13
L.A. Rams 10, Washington 6
Tampa Bay 23, Minnesota 10
Monday, Nov. 22
San Francisco 42, New Orleans 7

Week 13

Thursday, Nov. 25
BEARS 10, Detroit 6
Miami 16, Dallas 14
Sunday, Nov. 28
Green Bay 13, Tampa Bay 10
Atlanta 17, Cleveland 14
Cincinnati 16, L.A. Raiders 10
New Orleans 17, Minnesota 14
Philadelphia 17, Washington 14
Denver 17, Seattle 9
Kansas City 23, Buffalo 7
N.Y. Giants 19, Phoenix 17
San Francisco 35, L.A. Rams 10
Houston 23, Pittsburgh 3
Monday, Nov. 29
San Diego 31, Indianapolis 0

Week 14

Sunday, Dec. 5
BEARS 30, Green Bay 17
Houston 33, Atlanta 17
Indianapolis 9, N.Y. Jets 6
L.A. Raiders 25, Buffalo 24
Minnesota 13, Detroit 0
Pittsburgh 17, New England 14
Cleveland 17, New Orleans 13
Washington 23, Tampa Bay 17
Phoenix 38, L.A. Rams 10
San Diego 13, Denver 10
N.Y. Giants 19, Miami 14
Kansas City 31, Seattle 16
San Francisco 21, Cincinnati 8
Monday, Dec. 6
Philadelphia at Dallas....8 p.m.

Week 15

Saturday, Dec. 11
N.Y. Jets at Washington....11:30 a.m.
San Francisco at Atlanta....3 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 12
BEARS at Tampa Bay....Noon
Buffalo at Philadelphia....Noon
Cincinnati at New England....Noon
Cleveland at Houston....Noon
Indianapolis at N.Y. Giants....Noon
L.A. Rams at New Orleans....Noon
Dallas at Minnesota....3 p.m.
Detroit at Phoenix....3 p.m.
Kansas City at Denver....3 p.m.
Seattle at L.A. Raiders....3 p.m.
Green Bay at San Diego....7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 13
Pittsburgh at Miami....8 p.m.

Week 16

Saturday, Dec. 18
Denver at **BEARS**....11:30 a.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Jets....3 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 19
Atlanta at Washingtoh....Noon
Buffalo at Miami....Noon
Houston at Pittsburgh....Noon
L.A. Rams at Cincinnati....Noon
Minnesota vs. Green Bay at Milw....Noon
New England at Cleveland....Noon
Phoenix at Seattle....3 p.m.
San Diego at Kansas City....3 p.m.
San Francisco at Detroit....3 p.m.
Tampa Bay at L.A. Raiders....3 p.m.
Philadelphia at Indianapolis....7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 20
N.Y. Giants at New Orleans....8 p.m.

Week 17

Saturday, Dec. 25
Houston at San Francisco....4:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 26
Detroit at **BEARS**....Noon
Atlanta at Cincinnati....Noon
Indianapolis at New England....Noon
L.A. Raiders at Green Bay....Noon
New Orleans at Philadelphia....Noon
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo....Noon
Cleveland at L.A. Rams....3 p.m.
N.Y. Giants t Phoenix....3 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Seattle....3 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Denver....3 p.m.
Washington at Dallas....3 p.m.
Kansas City at Minnesota....7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 27
Miami at San Diego....8 p.m.

Week 18

Friday, Dec. 31
Minnesota at Washington....2 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 2
BEARS at L.A. Rams....3 p.m.
Buffalo at Indianapolis....Noon
Cleveland at Pittsburgh....Noon
Dallas at N.Y. Giants....Noon
Green Bay at Detroit....Noon
Miami at New England....Noon
Phoenix at Atlanta....Noon
Seattle at Kansas City....Noon
Cincinnati at New Orleans....3 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Raiders....3 p.m.
San Diego at Tampa Bay....3 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Houston....7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 3
Philadelphia at San Francisco....8 p.m.

VIEWPOINT

P.O. BOX 4205, ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60006

After further review

When Instant Replay was eliminated a few years ago it gave NFL officials a license to make calls without fear of contradiction. Throughout this season the officials have blown more calls than I have ever noticed before. Without Replay they have the authority to call it their way.

Watching the Bears-Lions game on TV this Thanksgiving, there were two distinct calls that made the officials stand out. Even the TV announcers—two of the best in Pat Summerall and John Madden—agreed that the Bears got the raw end of the deal.

When the Lions punt returner called for a fair catch and muffed the ball, it became a free ball. Without question, the Bears recovered it. The officials, however, ruled that the whistle had already blown and, consequently, there was no fumble recovery by the Bears. The ball was loose. It took a few minutes for everyone to un-pile. It was an obvious call that was blown.

Earlier in the game a Bears pass rusher was called for roughing the passer. This was another bad call verified by the game announcers. This call wasn't even close to being correct.

One of the reasons the replay was withdrawn was that it slowed down the game. Now, there are six or seven officials discussing a play on several occasions during a game. Why does it take the whole crew to make a decision?

Instant Replay had its shortcomings, but the NFL should restore Replay and allow only specific plays to be reviewed. This will require the officials to be more discreet, and it should protect the team that gets hurt by an incorrect call. The quality of play has vastly improved over the years, but even with more officials on the field than ever it seems teams are being short-changed.

Maybe one guy in the replay booth can solve this entire problem. The viewers both on the field and at home deserve better. Pro football is a billion dollar sport. Why let a handful of officials ruin the game? When an official knows he's under scrutiny, he'll be more observant.

Erwin J. Ross
Davie, Florida

An offensive line

What's wrong with the offense? It's the line! Back in the 1980s when the Bears were a power in the NFC Central they controlled both the offensive and defensive lines of scrimmage.

The defense was so brilliant that nobody seemed to notice the fine job the offensive line was doing. Most coaches know it starts in the trenches. If you control the line of scrimmage, you control the game. We simply have not been making the blocks. Jim Harbaugh was getting slammed on his back before he could even take a three-step drop, let alone set up and throw the ball. The only running back who could be successful behind this group was enshrined in Canton this past summer.

The Bears need to address this glaring problem during the off-season. They should seek out quality veterans via free agency. A couple of good prospects should also be sought in the draft.

Hey coach Wannstedt, you think you could pull off one of those Herschel Walker deals for us? Oh, well, it never hurts to ask.

Michael Brewer
Indianapolis

Line starting to gel

I would like to congratulate the offensive line in their last three outings, especially the win at Kansas City. I think that they have really come together. I do not agree with all the criticism they are receiving. You have to realize that the offensive line is the hardest position to play, because in order to be successful all five guys have to become one unit.

You cannot become a unit with all the injuries they've suffered.

I am glad that Dave Wannstedt has had patience with the offensive line. They are really starting to prove people wrong. I would also like to congratulate the whole team on a successful season.

Jim Harris
Great Bend, Kansas

Where are they now?

I would like to know what the various persons on Mike Ditka's coaching staff are doing now.

J. Bruce Amstutz
Brunswick, Maine

Two of the coaches were retained by Dave Wannstedt: Danny Abramowicz (special teams) and Dave McGinnis (linebackers). Three took other NFL jobs: John Levra (Broncos offensive line coach), Johnny Roland (Jets running backs coach) and Zaven Yaralian (Giants defensive backs coach). Two joined the college ranks: Greg Landry (University of Illinois offensive coordinator) and Steve Kazor (head coach of Iowa Wesleyan). The others are out of football, though Vince Tobin is one of the leading candidates for the vacant University of Missouri head coaching job.

Reader Brady Kay of Logan, Utah, says he's concerned about fair-weathered fans. He decided to draw his "Viewpoint" rather than write it.

BEAR WANT ADS

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Contact: Paul Clements, P.O. Box 28156, San Diego, CA 92198, 619-745-5589.

WANTED: Official Bears flag (approximately 3 x 5 feet).

Contact: Tom Harriss, 2412 Forest Valley Drive, Ft. Wayne, IN 46815, 219-493-2911.

WANTED: Information on Bears fan club in Cleveland-Akron area.

Contact: Carl and Carol Rommel, 3587 N. Sunnyfield, Copley, OH 44321, 216-666-5941.

WANTED: VHS copy of Super Bowl XX.

Contact: Richard Ackley, 56 Los Angeles Street, Springfield, MA 01107.

WANTED: Catalogs that carry a variety of Bears memorabilia or merchandise, especially clothing.

Contact: Tanya Limpakan, 11813 Mentone Road, Wheaton, MD 20906.

WANTED: Info on any Bears fan clubs in Pennsylvania.

Contact: Wickie Domore, 3343 Webster Avenue, Apt. 170E, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

WANTED: VHS copy of Walter Payton's "Winning in Life".

Contact: Dennis J. Eichelbaum, 14648 Waterview Circle, Addison, TX 75244.

WANTED: VHS tape of Super Bowl XX, all Bears memorabilia, and any Walter Payton collectables.

Contact: Joe Karl, 1047 S. Seminary, Bloomfield, IN 47424, 812-384-3330.

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